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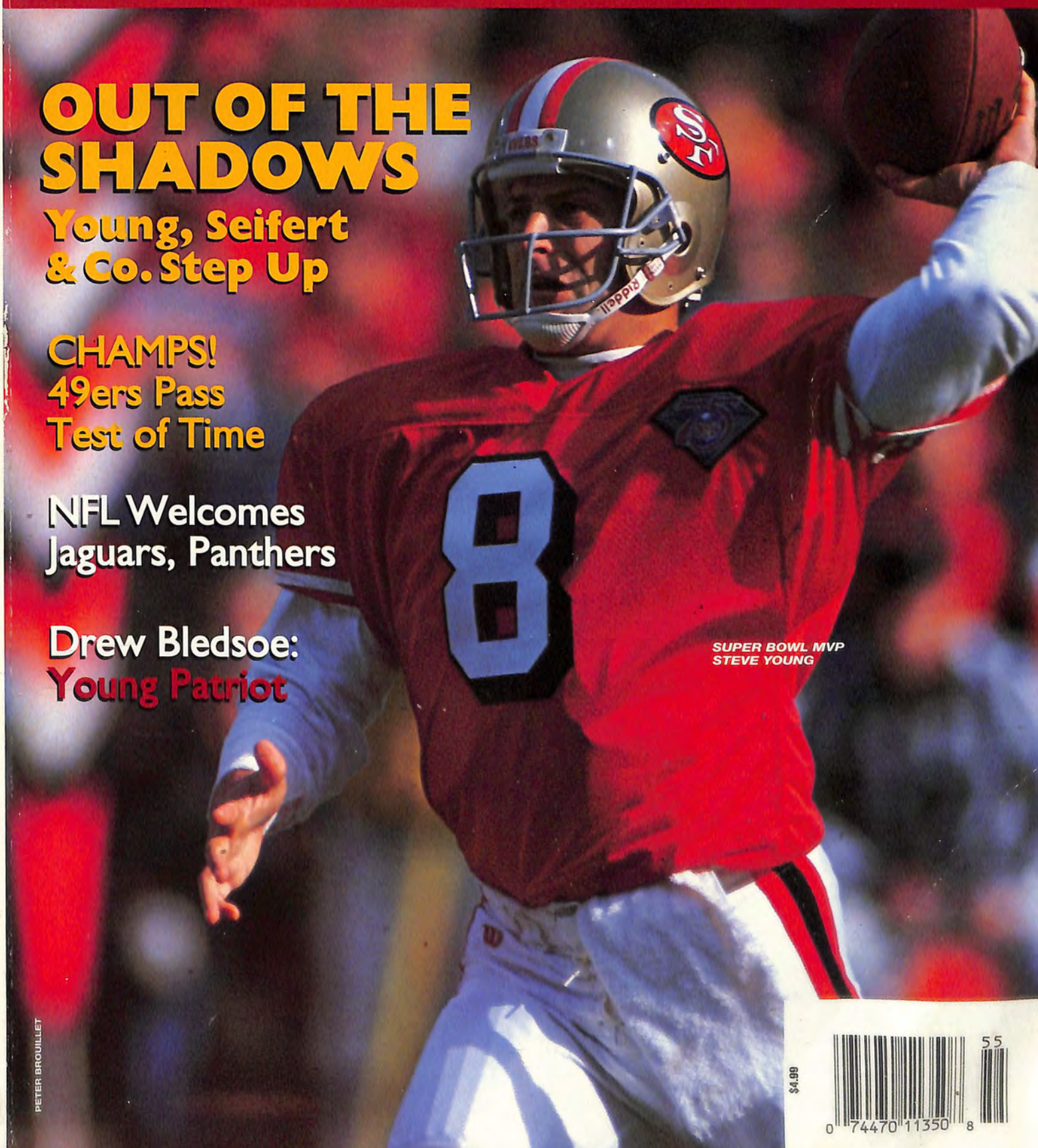
America's Premier Sports Annuals
1995 EDITION

PRO FOOTBALL



OUT OF THE SHADOWS
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49ers Pass Test of Time

NFL Welcomes Jaguars, Panthers

Drew Bledsoe: Young Patriot

SUPER BOWL MVP
STEVE YOUNG

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VOL 14/1995

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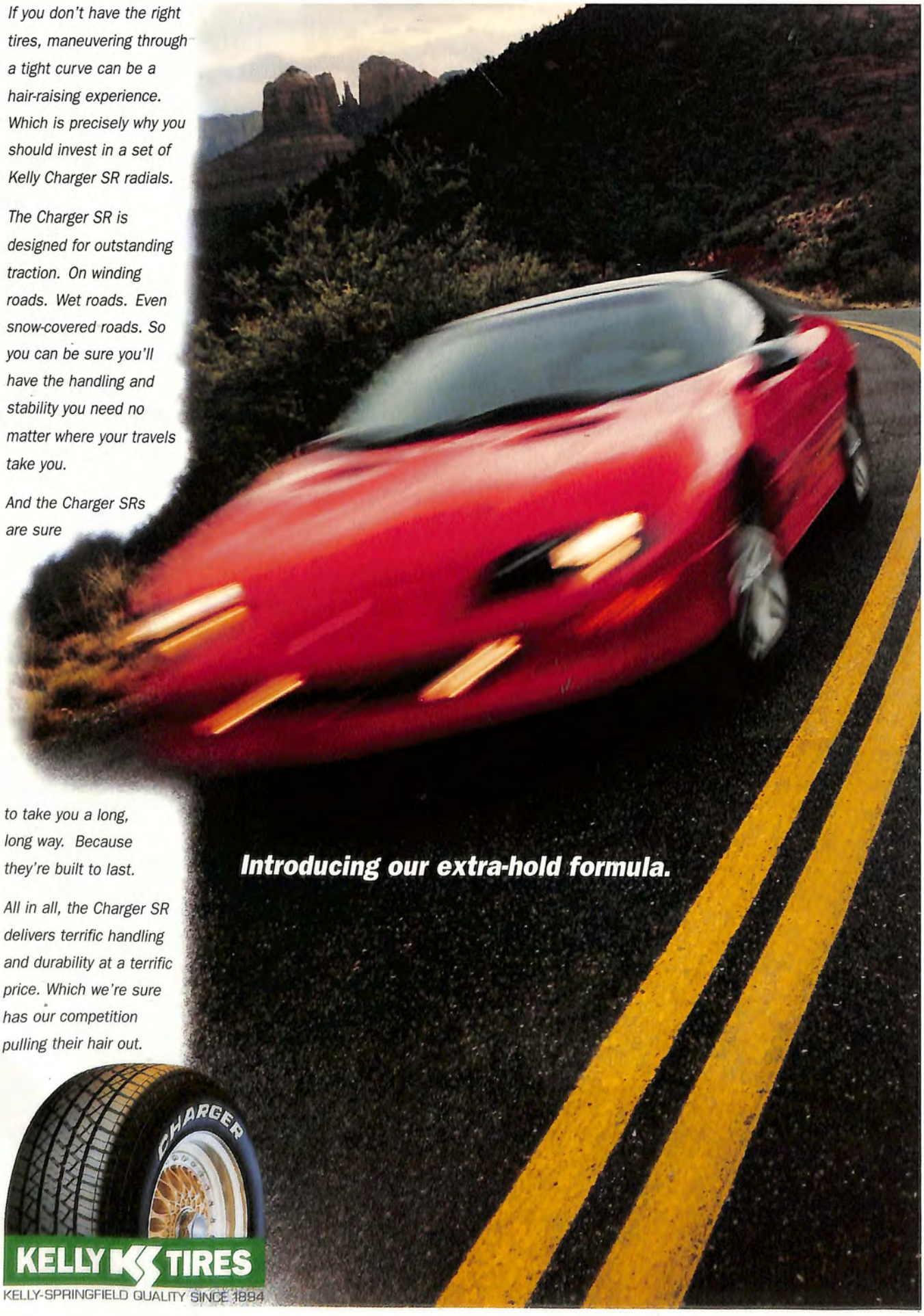
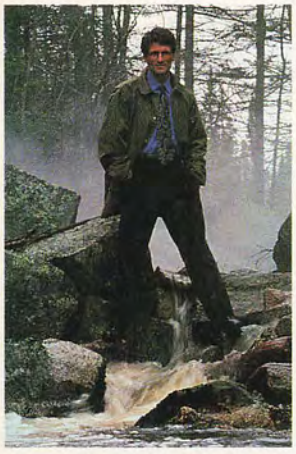


EVERY YEAR AT THIS TIME SOMETHING REMARKABLE HAPPENS.

AMERICA DISCOVERS ITSELF.



Like warm cardigans and rustling amber leaves, the footwear of G.H. Bass is clearly carved into America's autumn landscape. After 119 years, Bass continues as a reminder of what it is we value most: style with substance, price with value, heritage with purpose. These were basic ideas to George Henry Bass back in 1876. It was then he first promised his Maine neighbors 'the best shoe for the purpose for which it will be used.' That promise still stands. And as you look around, even as you look through this magazine, ask yourself what it is you are truly looking for. Like so many men, you may discover the answer is, as it always has been, right at your feet.

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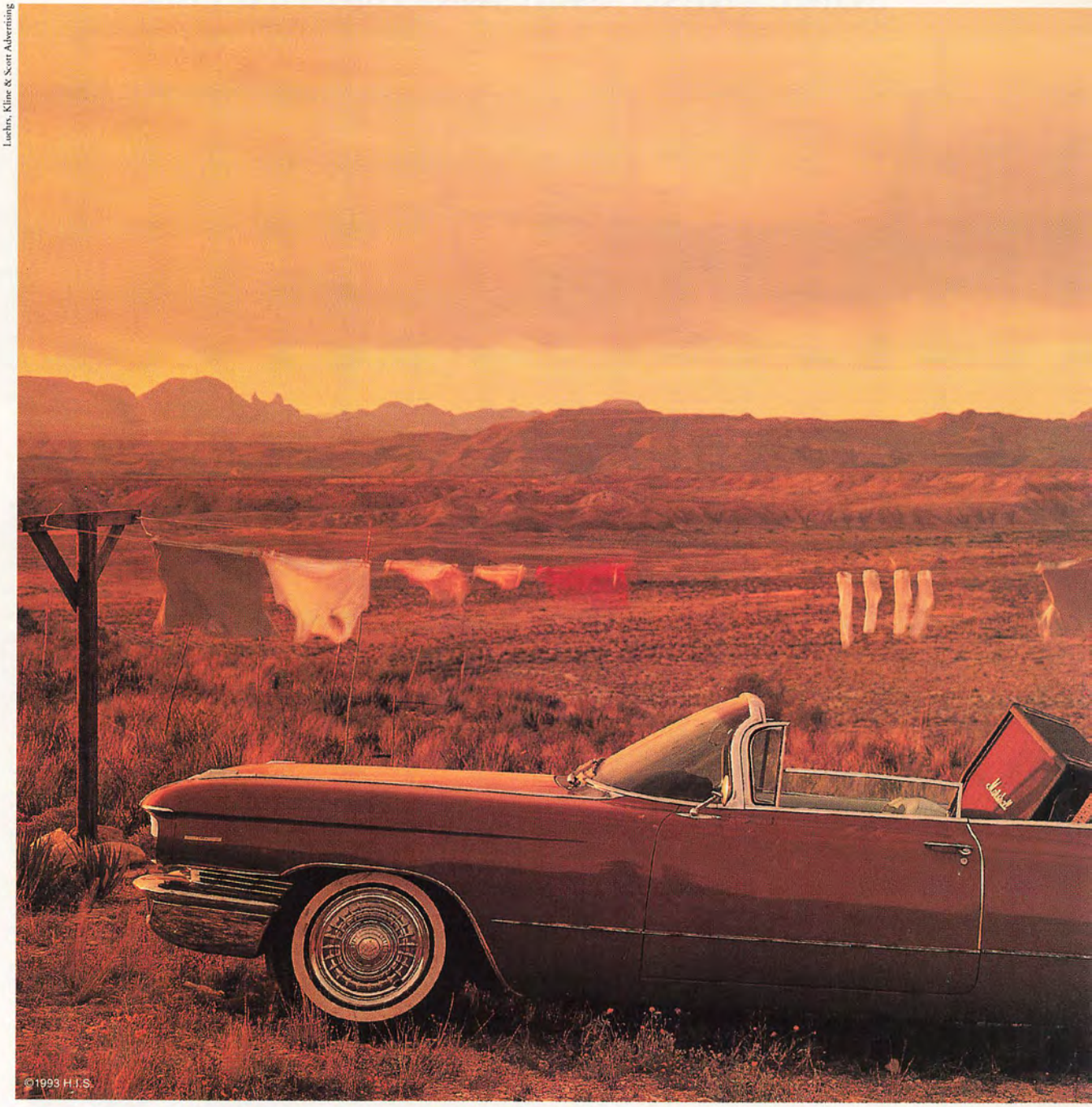

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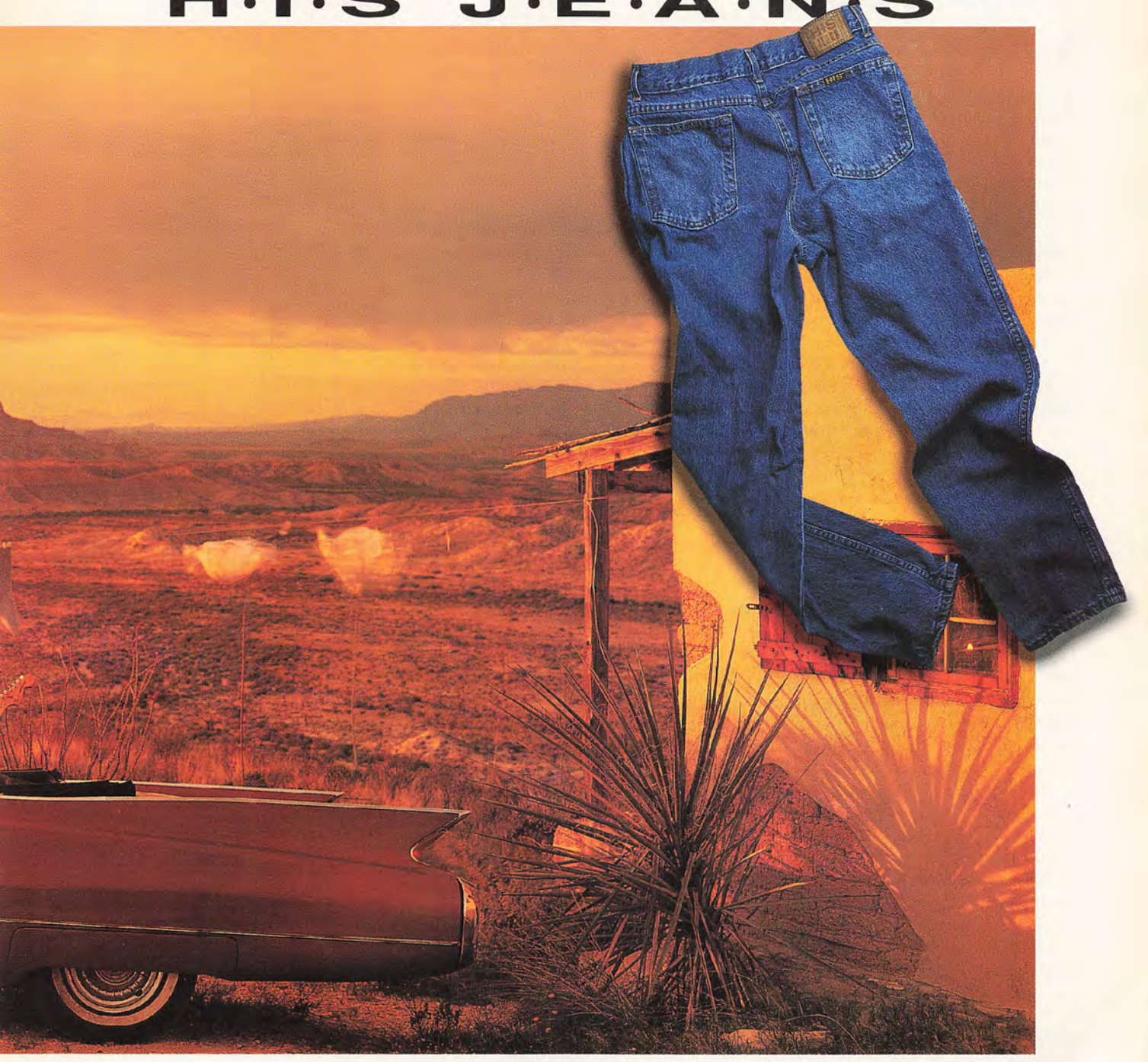

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Editor's Letter

Since the last high five on the 49ers' sideline of Super Bowl XXIX, the salary cap has been at the forefront of all the National Football League's business and personnel moves. Every team follows the lead of Carmen Policy, San Francisco's president, trying to gain a talent advantage without violating the league-imposed payroll limit.

The Niners, with Policy's vision and owner Eddie DeBartolo's checkbook, played the salary-cap game as well as they played the game on the field. Creative deal-making and player contracts are as an important ingredient in winning Super Bowls as creative play-calling, pass protection and man-to-man coverage.

Free agency and the salary cap cause instability both on NFL rosters and in the relationship between fans and players. Players don't stay in the same cities as long as they did in the pre-free-agent era.

For two years, Dallas fans were treated to back-to-back Super Bowls with Ken Norton in the middle of the defense. Last January, hopes for a third were dashed by a defense wearing red led by Ken Norton in the middle.

The Norton-led 49ers defense featured another recent NFL phenomenon, the hired gun. Deion Sanders and Rickey Jackson, the two most notable, were brought in for one year for one reason: to ensure a championship for San Francisco. Mission accomplished. Because of the short duration of players' careers (the NFL average is about five years), coupled with the attrition caused by pressures of the salary cap and free agency, teams are forced to think about the here-and-now, rather than build for the future. Obviously the future cannot be ignored, but there are no guarantees that players will be healthy, happy or affordable under the cap.

In this year's issue, *Athlon* brings you stories of how stars' careers are made, and how one never materialized. Drew Bledsoe is a budding star with New England. Dan Shaughnessey of the *Boston Globe* shares with us the effect Drew's family has had on his career and why he isn't too good to be true. This profile begins on page 30.

Through his own words, we hear Cris Carter's story of how a college All-American can learn and build from his mistakes and reverse his life and career to become one of the most heralded receivers in the NFL. Curt Brown's interview with Carter begins on page 35.

Another All-American who seemed to possess all the talent and tools necessary to become a professional star, Joe Don Looney, never succeeded in football. With an excessive independent attitude (not unlike many of today's professional athletes), Looney became his own worst enemy. The former Oklahoma player's life is chronicled from football to drugs to his pilgrimage to India in search of self-peace.

Celebrate with us the best players in the history of each franchise. New in this issue are our selections for all-time teams for every club. Researching 75 years of tradition-packed teams like the Bears, Packers and Cardinals, made the task somewhat overwhelming, but fun nonetheless, particularly for assistant editor Alan Ross who led the project.

How could we leave Gale Sayers off the Bears' all-time team? Unfortunately, we have only two spots for Sayers, Bronco Nagurski and Walter Payton. After leading the Dolphins to a 17–0 mark in 1972 and consecutive Super Bowl wins, Bob Griese did not make Miami's team. I hope you have as much fun with these teams as we did. Let us know who we may have missed.

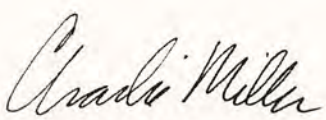
The NFL welcomes the Carolina Panthers and Jacksonville Jaguars. You'll find their first-ever team previews on pages 76 (Carolina) and 182 (Jacksonville). With the cap and free agency, the new teams should build winners quicker than expansion teams of the past. One message to expansion fans: Be excited about your team, but be patient. Tampa Bay has enjoyed two (non-strike) winning seasons in its history. Seattle first made the playoffs in its eighth year, and New Orleans, a member of the NFL since 1967, has never won a playoff game.

For those of you who didn't notice, *Athlon* predicted last summer that San Francisco would win the Super Bowl. OK, so it was a no-brainer. Even the year before, we correctly tabbed Dallas. Again an easy pick, you say? Well, the Niners and Cowboys are still the class of the league. They'll meet for the fourth consecutive time in the NFC championship game. Find out on page 51 which team we picked to win. We say the NFC will win its 12th straight Super Bowl.

As it has for the past 13 years, *Athlon* brings you the best of the NFL's sideline attractions. This celebration begins on page 222.

Thanks to all of you who have written, it's always great to hear from our readers. We can also be reached by FAX at (615) 327-1149.

Enjoy the season.



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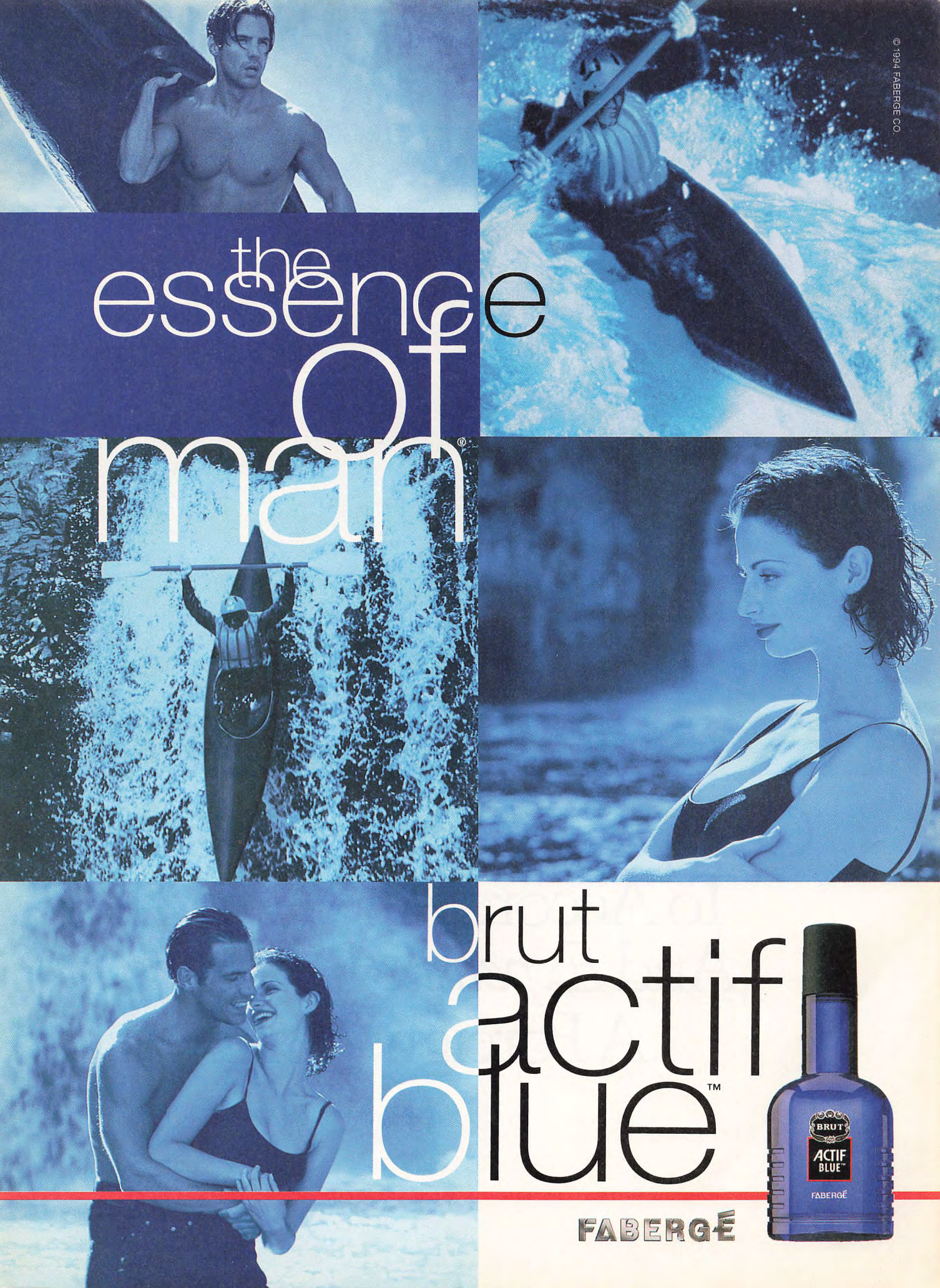
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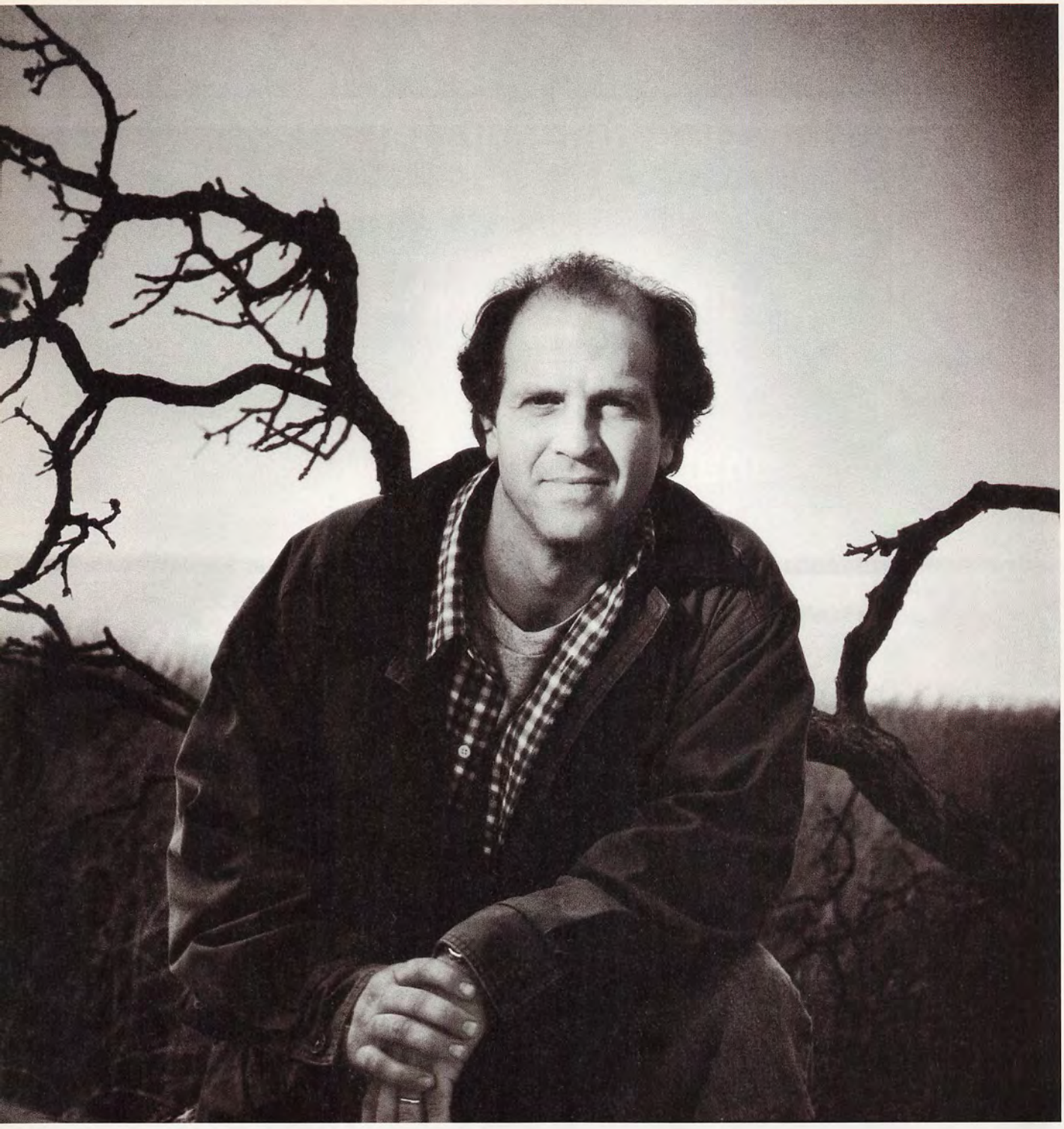

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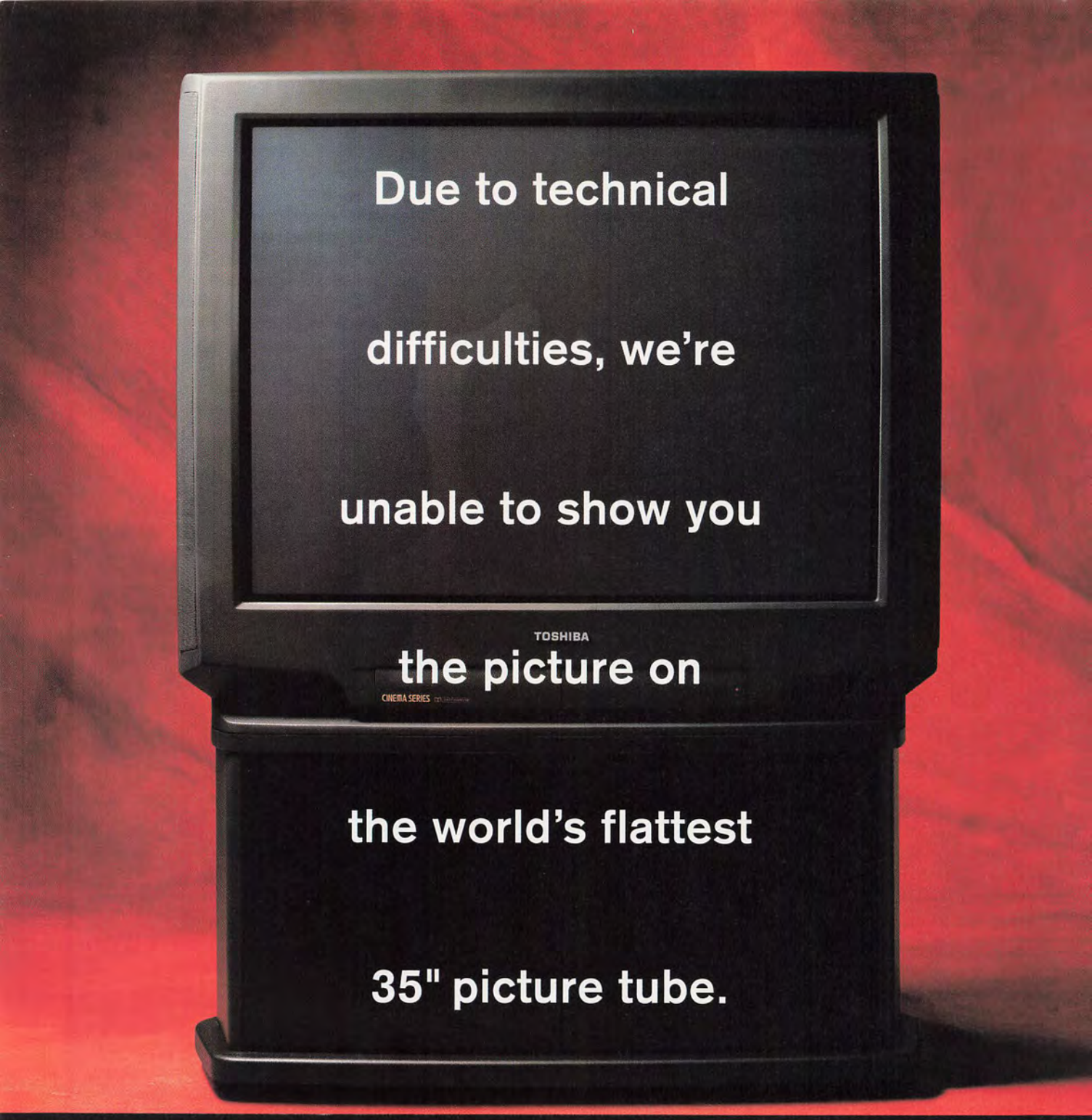

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1947
1983
1994

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What you won't hear in this ad is equally impressive. The FST Perfect with Dolby® Surround Sound has five speakers and a total 43-watt audio system with 4-channel DSP and Cyclone™ ABX sound. The printed page does have its limitations. But, fortunately for you, the new Toshiba FST Perfect picture tube doesn't.

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Gordon Forbes
USA TODAY

Gordon's writing career started in 1967 with *The Philadelphia Inquirer* as beat writer for the Eagles. He switched to the national beat at *USA TODAY* in 1982 as pro football editor. He has covered 27 of 29 Super Bowls, missing only Super Bowl I (*The Inquirer* didn't bother to staff) and XXVIII (his wife passed away two days before game).

The veteran writer has covered over 750 games and was elected to the writers' wing of the Hall of Fame in 1987 for long and distinguished contributions to pro football.

"The attraction of pro football is its physical demands and tactical planning," he says. What he looks for on Sunday afternoons are "honest players who give everything they have on every down." As far as quarterbacks go, Forbes likes "the guy who can take an offense the length of the field in a strange stadium against whipping winds and an angry crowd."

Dan Shaughnessy
The Boston Globe

Dan, a sports columnist for *The Boston Globe*, was born in Groton, Mass., and graduated from Holy Cross in 1975. He has spent time at the Baltimore *Evening Sun* and *Washington Star* before joining the Globe in 1981.

Dan has been named Massachusetts Sportswriter of the Year each of the last five years, and three times voted one of America's top three sports columnists by Associated Press Sports Editors.

He has written four books, makes regular appearances on sports radio and has appeared on *Nightline*, *The Today Show* and ESPN's *Sports Reporters*. He now lives in Newton, Mass., with his wife, Marilou, and children Sarah, Kate and Sam.

Other Contributing Writers:

Curt Brown, *Minneapolis Star Tribune* ■ ***Scott Fowler***, *The Charlotte Observer* ■ ***Leonard Shapiro***, *The Washington Post* ■ ***Jim Bureh*** and ***Steve Campbell***, *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* ■ ***Steve Lowery***, *Press-Telegram, Long Beach, Calif.*

Mike Lopresti
Gannett News Service

Mike has covered 13 Super Bowls, nine AFC title games and four NFC championship games for Gannett News Service, a wire service which appears in more than 100 newspapers.

Now 42, he has been national sports correspondent for GNS since 1981 and has also covered seven Olympics, 15 World Series and 15 Final Fours. He is a Ball State graduate living in Richmond, Ind., with his wife and three children.

ED WERDER
The Dallas Morning News

Ed Werder, 34, has won numerous awards for his coverage of National Football League teams. He has covered professional football for 12 years, the past four as the beat reporter on the Dallas Cowboys for *The Dallas Morning News*. His first appearance in *Athlon* was an interview with outspoken Cowboys wide receiver Michael Irvin, who informed readers of his concern about the future of the team with Barry Switzer replacing Jimmy Johnson. Those remarks were prophetic as the Cowboys were toppled in the NFC Championship Game by the San Francisco 49ers.

Werder may have played a role since the demise of the Cowboys seemingly commenced as soon as team owner Jerry Jones dismissed Johnson. It was Werder who co-wrote the 1994 Texas sports story of the year when he and Rick Gosselin uncovered the incident between the coach and the powerful team owner that would lead to the premature dissolution of their successful partnership.

In addition to the Cowboys, Werder spent five seasons covering the Denver Broncos for the Boulder, Colo., *Daily Camera*. He then proceeded to the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, when Johnson and Troy Aikman were rookies on a 1–15 Cowboys team. From there, Werder was one of two writers responsible for full-time coverage of the NFL for *The National Sports Daily*. When that publication ceased operations, he spent a season covering the Tampa Bay Buccaneers for *The Orlando Sentinel*.

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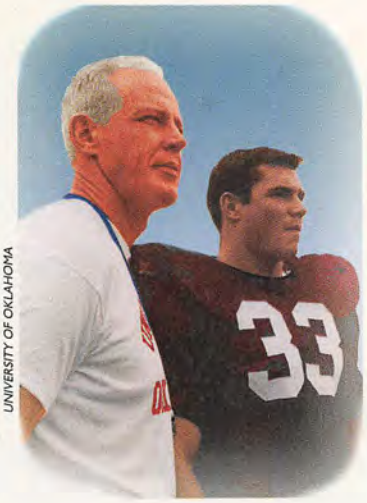
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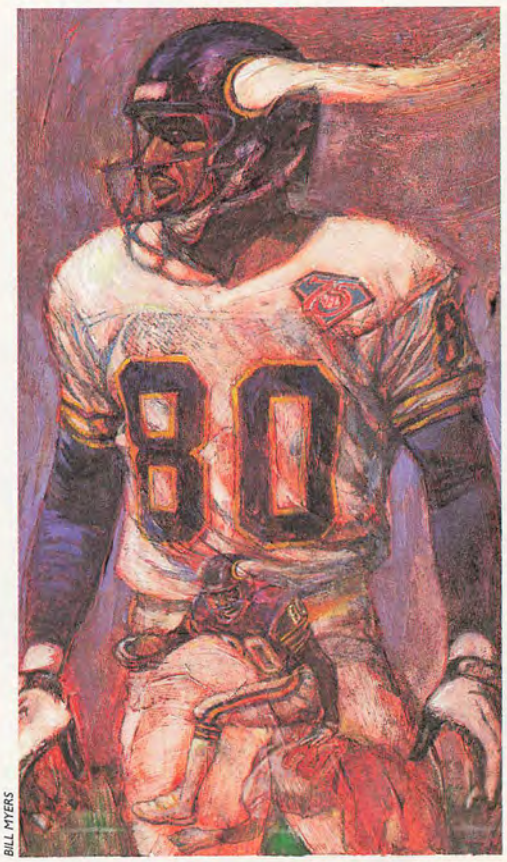
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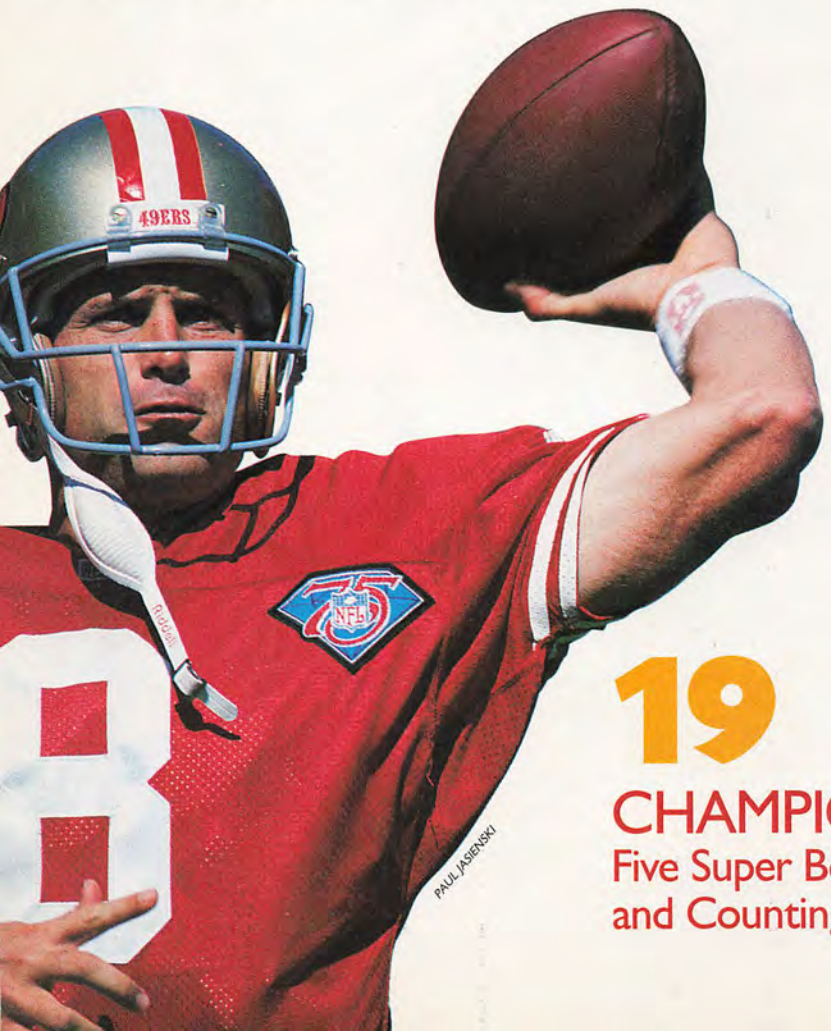
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STEVE WOLTMANN

52 TEAM PREVIEWS
Complete Team Analyses

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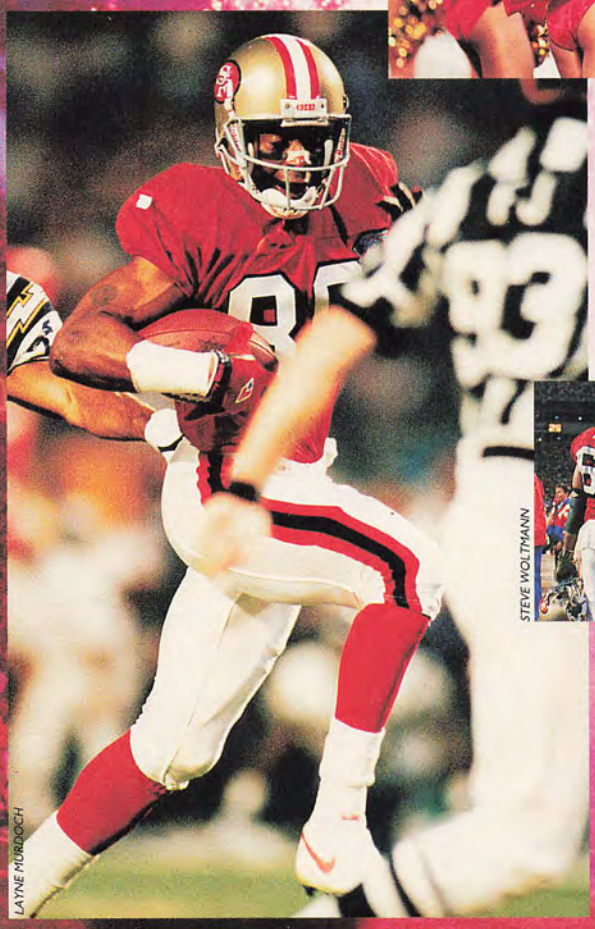

LAYNE MURDOCH

STEVE WOLTMANN

Nothing in sports compares to the spectacle and pageantry of the Super Bowl, even though it has been predictable and hardly competitive in recent years.

And no team can match the excellence of the San Francisco 49ers in Super Bowls. The 49ers and championships have become almost synonymous.

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CHAMPIONS

FIVE SUPER BOWLS AND COUNTING

By Mike Lopresti
Gannett News Service

In the warm afterglow of Super Bowl XXIX, on a golden day for a glorious San Francisco franchise, guard Jesse Sapolu's view put it neatly.

"You have to live up to a standard to be a 49er," he said deep inside Joe Robbie Stadium last January.

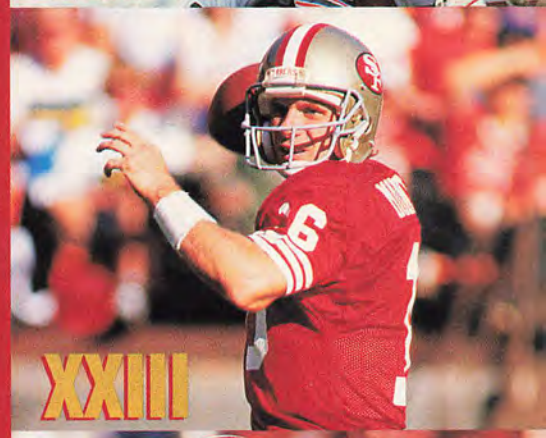
Ain't it the truth?

They are no longer simply a dynasty, these 49ers, but almost a freak of nature. Champions are supposed to come and go in modern sport, pulled apart by the centrifugal forces of success and age. It is the way of the world.

Anyone seen the Boston Celtics lately? The Oakland A's? The Washington Redskins? The Detroit Pistons?

The Los Angeles Lakers owned the 1980s but then went through hard times, when even the celebrity seats went vacant. It has been a slower dance for the Chicago Bears since the Super Bowl Shuffle. Only the return of Michael Jordan kept the Chicago Bulls from quiet mediocrity.

And already the Dallas Cowboys may show just the faintest cracks. "I saw the writing on the wall," linebacker Ken Norton Jr. said of his decision to change Dallas blue for San Francisco red last year.



49ERS™

CHAMPIONS

Championship players are supposed to have their fun and then go away. Get mad at one another. Get old. Get a better contract somewhere else, ripping management as they leave.

But the 49ers? This good ship lollypop has now been sailing for 14 years, slicing through the shoal waters of free agency, salary cap, human nature and the relentless clock of age.

Fourteen years ago, they invited themselves into the parlor of the National Football League's upper crust. They sat down, made themselves at home and declared they'd like to stay awhile. Five Super Bowl titles later, they are still there. The faces and names change. Joe Montana is gone. Bill Walsh. Ronnie Lott. And the 49ers don't win the Super Bowl every year, it only seems that way. But they are always around, always making noise, ignoring the average life expectancy of a contender. The rains of time leak in on most champions. The 49ers, apparently, are waterproof.

Take away the 49ers, and the long lost AFC isn't living nearly so hard the past decade. Whenever a Chicago or Dallas or Washington fades, and the coast seems clear for a Super Bowl for the AFC, there's San Francisco. In the way again.

The San Francisco secret? Flowers.

Well, that's one of 'em anyway. This from linebacker Gary Plummer, one of the many defensive imports last year, lured from San Diego by the siren call of a determined franchise: "You sign a contract, and the next day there's a bouquet the size of a table for your wife welcoming her to this organization. After training camp, I went up to thank John McVay (vice president of football administration) for taking care of my 400 closest friends and family, and he said, 'Gary, without the players, what do we have but a bunch of blocking sleds and footballs?'

"And that's their attitude. There are owners in this league that really don't like players, it's a way to make money. Eddie DeBartolo (club owner) and the 49ers organization care about the players."

DeBartolo and team president Carmen Policy. The men at the top. In the winter of baseball's discontent, while the players and management hurled insults at one another, the 49ers stood together in stark contrast in another sport.

"He'll go down as the greatest sports franchise owner in history," quarterback Steve Young said of DeBartolo one day during Super Bowl Week. "I'm not blowing any smoke. I just think that's a fact."

"This isn't any single person," DeBartolo said, moments after his creation had dismantled San Diego 49–26 in the Super Bowl. "It's not Steve. It's not Jerry (Rice). It's not DeBartolo. It's not Policy. It's the 49er franchise."

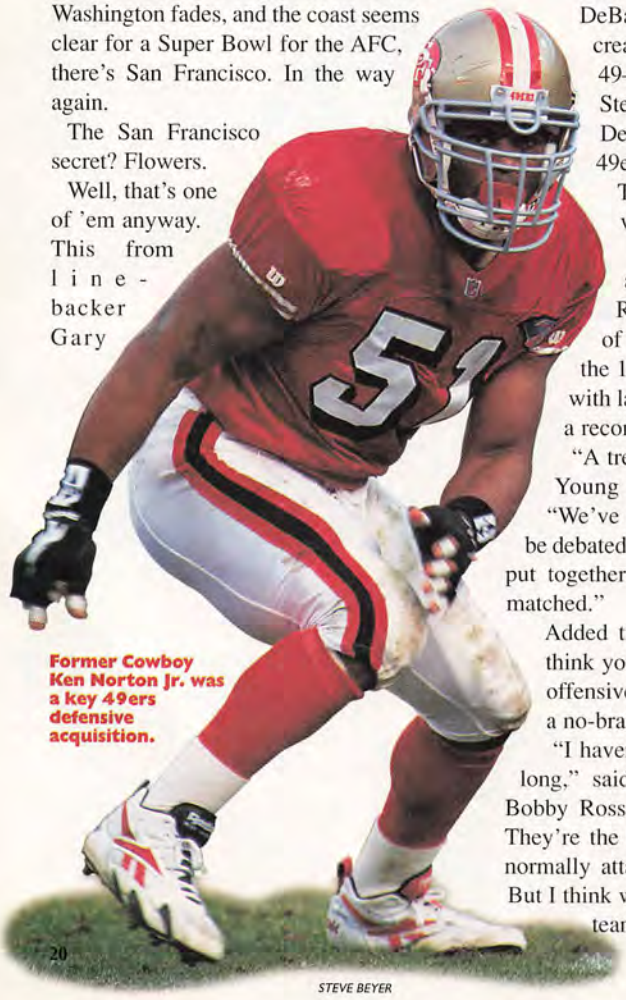
The 49er franchise. What in the world has gone so right?

It began with Walsh's mind and Montana's grit and later Rice's elegance. The beginnings of an offensive onslaught through the 1980s and '90s reached full fury with last year's 505 season points and a record 131 playoff points.

"A tree that grew out of few seeds," Young called the 1994 machine. "We've made our mark, I believe. It'll be debated. But we'd like to believe we've put together a string that might never be matched."

Added tight end Brent Jones, "I don't think you can doubt that this is the best offensive team ever. That's pretty much a no-brainer."

"I haven't been around the league that long," said third-year San Diego coach Bobby Ross. "But I'll tell you one thing: They're the best I've ever seen. You don't normally attach that term to many people. But I think we're looking at a great football team."



Former Cowboy Ken Norton Jr. was a key 49ers defensive acquisition.

STEVE BEYER

STEVE WOLTMANN

Seifert chased some shadows in the Super Bowl.

People were saying the same thing about them five years ago. Ten years ago. The 49ers spread the right cast around their stars in the 1980s. And when that platoon grew old, in came the new wave. It was more renovation than rebuilding, done so quickly that few noticed the 49ers had ever gone away, eclipsed ever so briefly by the Cowboys, a reign that ended quickly last January when San Francisco dethroned Dallas in the NFC title game.

"Our matchup with Dallas was like the two big kids in school battling to see who was the bully," Sapolu said. "We were the team of the '80s, and they had tried to get a foot up on us in the '90s."

San Francisco's answer was to bring in new feet. Damn the salary cap, full speed ahead. These are determined men. Policy jogs 25 miles a week. DeBartolo has captained a business empire. With Policy's direction and DeBartolo's checkbook, the 49ers pushed to the front of the line with reinforcements: Norton, Plummer, Deion Sanders, Bart Oates, etc.

It was a flanking move done so deftly that outsiders either admired how the 49ers had managed the salary cap or questioned how they manipulated it. Their NFL rivals glared at them with looks of malice — or was it just envy?

With their hands on the Lombardi Trophy, the 49ers didn't much care what people thought. Yeah, they spent a lot of dough, carefully planned on the players they believed they needed. But there was

something about the 49er mystique and reputation that brought in the talent, when more dollars might have taken them elsewhere.

> *"When it's all said and done, I look like the smartest man in the world."*
> *-Deion Sanders*

Sanders turned down $17.1 million for four years from other teams for $1.85 million, counting Super Bowl bonus, and one year with San Francisco.

"When it's all said and done, I look like the smartest man in the world," Sanders said. "Everybody said, 'He won't fit in with that team, why is he going there?' instead of just focusing on a guy that might truly want to win a Super Bowl. I don't have to star now. I've done my thing all year long. All I want is that ring."

For rings, Candlestick Park is the place to go. The high command has kept it that way. And does not intend to change.

"I don't think it's a matter of understanding aspects of the cap that other people don't," Policy said. "I think it's just the commitment this organization has had not to sink and not to go through that spell that seems to plague even the teams that have been recognized as champions over a decade. The cap was designed to implement immediate parity, and we probably worked harder than any other organization to see to it that we didn't be come victimized by it.

"I think that teams willing to put it all on the line to make the move to the Super Bowl and believe that the future is now in terms of winning will have to do some of the things we did. No question about it."

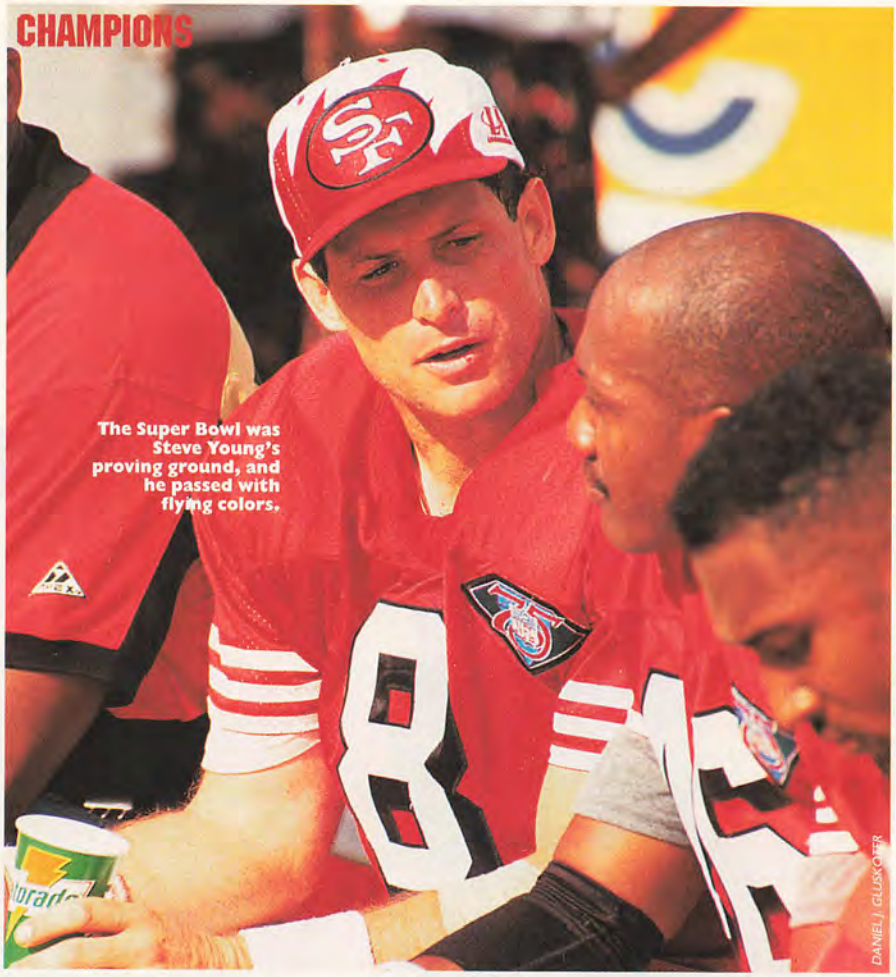
In this pursuit of victory, no arrangement seems too unlikely to the 49ers. A San Francisco team long known for its business-like approach opened the door to the free spirit of Sanders, a fascinating athlete with his 400 shoes and 200 suits, who was spanked by his mother until he was 16, calls her before and after every game, and dotes over young children named Deion and Diondra.

The locker room was never the same after this megamerger. Sanders needed the chance to play for a champion. Young needed to emerge once and for all out of Montana's shadow. And the 49ers, perhaps, needed an emotional jump start. They were clearly a more boisterous piece of work, right down to coach George Seifert, whose previous demeanor seemed more suited for a chess match.

"We call it coming out of the closet," Sanders said. "It just took the right guy to bring them out of the closet. I

Sanders sacrificed big money, saying "that ring" meant more.

STEVE WOLTMANN



The Super Bowl was Steve Young's proving ground, and he passed with flying colors.

DANIEL J. GLUSKOTER

enjoy life, man, because tomorrow ain't promised. I lost a father last year that I didn't get as close to as I really would have liked to. And that taught me a lot about the game of life."

But would the flash of Sanders' lightning go with the thunder of the established players, more reserved warriors such as Young? They were different types, to be sure. Tackle Harris Barton had a revealing Young story:

"It was his first season with the team when he wasn't playing much, and he was renting a room from us. Late in the season, I went into his room to steal a pair of socks, looked in the drawer and found 13 uncashed paychecks. I asked him about them, and he said, 'I haven't done anything to earn those checks, so I'm not going to cash them until I do.'"

Owner Eddie DeBartolo has a commitment to excellence, results.

And so there were adjustments to be made. The 49ers grew louder, bolder, maybe even brasher. Which meant they could not afford to fail. They were not true 49ers, not until they were champions. They knew it. Their opponents knew it.

"Great quarterbacks are judged on how many Super Bowls they've won," San Diego safety Darren Carrington said about Young prior to the game. "And he hasn't won any."

"This team was once about business," Barton said three days before Super Bowl XXIX. "Now it's about earrings, dancing in the end zone and gold chains. I'm still not convinced (it's the best way). Until we win the Super Bowl, it really doesn't matter."

And there were bumps in the road to even get there, such as an inexplicable 40–8 thrashing by Philadelphia in Candlestick Park in October, an act of sabotage to the 49er plans and hopes.

"At that particular time," Seifert said, "the pressure exploded."

"With all the money and the time the front office put into this," tackle Dana Stubblefield said, "it could have just blown up in our faces."

It didn't. The ship righted itself. With the last pieces in place, the 49ers steadily became an irresistible force on the way to history, led by an uproarious attack.

"When Joe Montana ran this offense, it was like he was conducting a symphony," Barton said. "When Steve Young runs this offense, it's kind of like a jam session."

What followed was the coup against Dallas and the cakewalk in the Super Bowl. The 49er franchise had never looked better, wiser, sounder.

"I wish anyone who's ever played football could feel this," said Young.

The surest way to feel it, apparently, is to play for San Francisco. The latest victory over the San Diego Chargers, with Young throwing six touchdown passes and earning MVP honors, and Jerry Rice setting career Super Bowl records for touchdowns (seven), points (42) and receiving yards (512), was hardly cold when the franchise was looking forward. Again. There would be holes to fill. Questions to answer. And, one more time, success to cope with.

The 49ers would be looking for a few good new men, to live up to the standard.

"You look at your blackboard, and you erase everything that doesn't have a multiyear contract, and you just begin all over again," Policy said. "That's the way it is, and that's the way you're going to have to compete. ■

SUPER STATS

Following are a few of the major Super Bowl records owned by the San Francisco 49ers:

INDIVIDUAL

Game

TD Passes	Steve Young	6	XXIX
TDs	Rickey Watters	3	XXIX
	Jerry Rice	3	XXIV &XXIX
	Roger Craig	3	XIX
Yards Receiving	Jerry Rice	215	XXIII
Yards Passing	Joe Montana	357	XXIII

Career

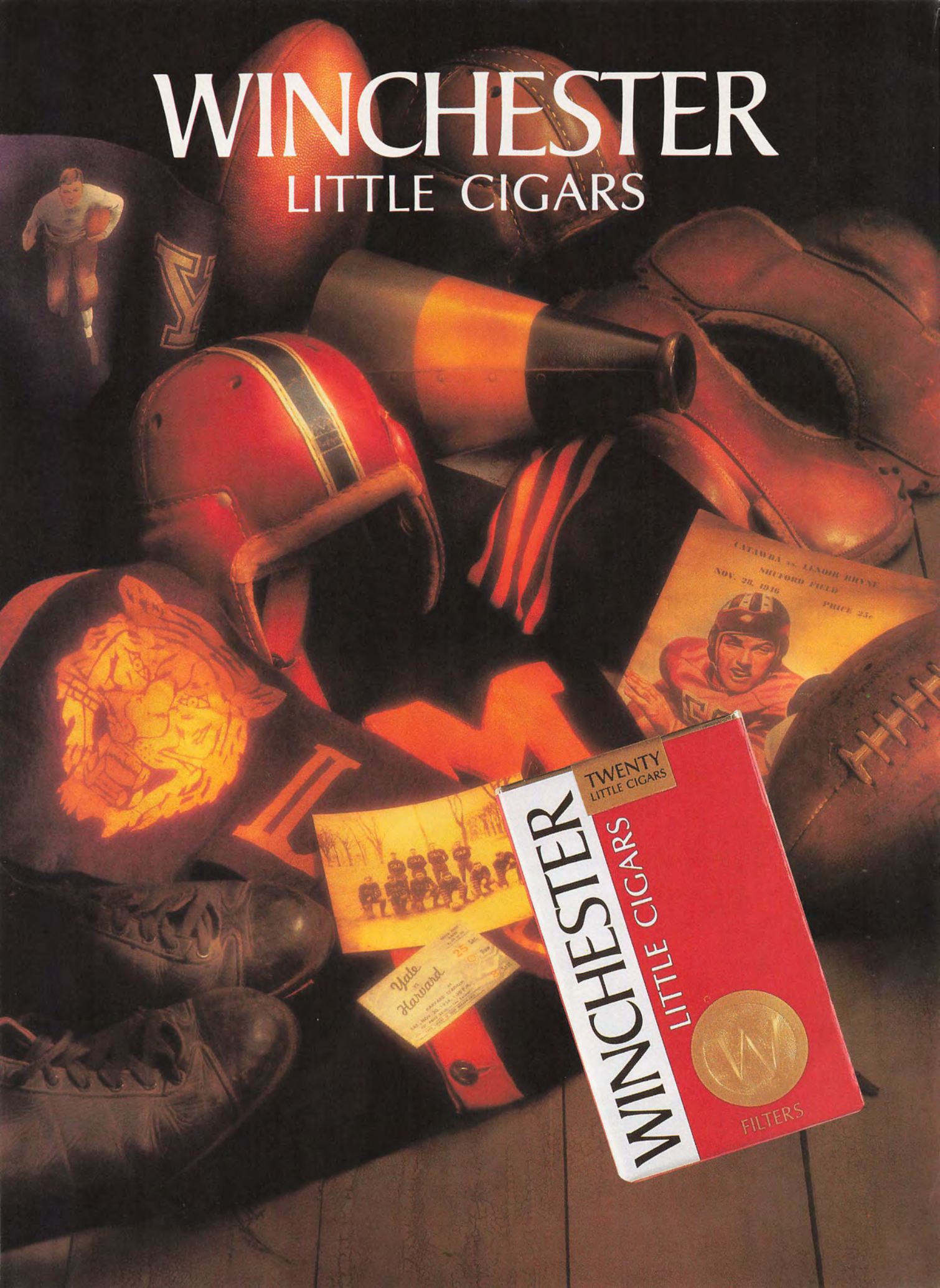
TDs	Jerry Rice	7	
Receptions	Jerry Rice	28	
Yards Passing	Joe Montana	1,142	
Yards Receiving	Jerry Rice	512	
TDs Passing	Joe Montana	11	
Highest Passing Rating	Joe Montana	127.8	
Most MVPs	Joe Montana	3	

TEAM

Most Wins		5	

Game

Most Points, Game		55	XXIV
Largest Margin, Game		45	XXIV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TWENTY
LITTLE CIGARS
WINCHESTER
LITTLE CIGARS
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One play can mean the difference between winning and losing. One fax can mean the difference between the right play and the wrong one. Perched high in a press box at Soldier Field with a bird's eye view of the opposing defense, Chicago Bears offensive coordinators diagram plays and send them down to the sideline. They send them down to a Muratec plain-paper fax with superfine resolution and image smoothing. After all, a picture can be worth more than a thousand words. Six points to be exact. Muratec. **1-800-543-4636**

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C'mon, Play Fair

And then, there are those absurd celebrations

By GORDON FORBES
USA TODAY

Outside the fashionable Arizona Biltmore resort, the scene was idyllic. But inside, where National Football League owners and head coaches gathered in a rare head-to-head meeting in the late winter, there was trouble in the air.

Commissioner Paul Tagliabue, reacting to concerns about the so-called terminator image of his league, decided to hold his head coaches accountable for their actions. When word leaked out about the owner-coach session in Phoenix, some NFL observers suggested that the league was instituting a gag order. The commissioner denied it.

"It doesn't have anything to do with what they say but what they do," Tagliabue said. "It's how they teach. And the fact that they go to meetings and clinics attended by high school coaches. Their concern should be to play the game safely. Emphasize fair tactics and excellence. Emphasize that you want your players to be like Jerry Rice and Barry Sanders."

For their part, the owners approved, actually toughened, new versions of unnecessary roughness and roughing-the-passer rules. This season, officials will be slapping offenders with 15-yard penalties for vicious hits involving the forehead, or hairline, and hits with the face mask and helmet. In effect, any time the helmet is used as a weapon.

STEVE WOLTMANN

Look for more stringent roughness calls.

Officials will be specifically looking for pass-rushers who dip the helmet, then, explained Miami coach Don Shula, "rip up through the head or chin, with intent to injure the quarterback — any acts that would be violent or unnecessary in an attempt to punish a player in a defenseless position."

Quarterbacks have been taking it on the chin — literally — and the head, knees and neck for too many years. The sack specialist, often frustrated by arriving just after the pass has gone, sometimes uses the "launch" technique, throwing himself into a defenseless passer. But no more. Such launches will cost a team 15 yards.

The gathering of coaches and owners, some of the latter with little knowledge of the game, was much more than just a session on safety. Tagliabue, aware of the trickle-down image that coaches project, wants to make sure their high school counterparts, as well as schoolboy players, get the right message.

"The underlying purpose, I think, was to emphasize that what coaches say in public statements reflects on the game," says Buffalo coach Marv Levy. "Of all the people in the organization, the coaches are the ones most often in the spotlight. Some coaches got up, too. It wasn't heated or anything. No finger-pointing."

The focus was on safety: "the use of the

Quarterbacks have been taking it on the chin — literally — for too many years.

C'mon Play Fair

The focus was on safety: "the use of the helmet," Levy says. "I think it's very healthy to try and improve rules designed to protect players from injury. My experience is that the vast majority of coaches don't teach dirty football. If an individual teaches tactics that are dirty, that's his responsibility."

Even old pros like Don Shula of the Miami Dolphins blow a fuse once in a while.

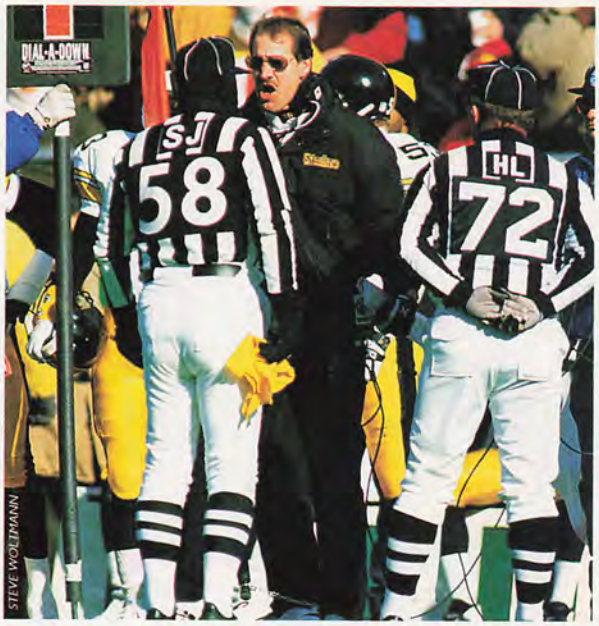
The meeting allowed coaches to voice opinions on various issues. One was sideline behavior.

"The idea is that you handle yourself from the standpoint of common sense" says Mike Shanahan, new Denver coach. "They talked about the integrity of the game. That if you keep knocking the officials or the salary cap, it hurts the game. We've got a great game. Let's keep everything positive."

Sounds like a form of the old gag rule. But let's wait until this season, when Tampa Bay's Sam Wyche or Pittsburgh's Bill Cowher or any of the other vocal head coaches gives it to an official.

"The way I explain it to our people," Tagliabue says, "is to tell them that every coach does a heckuva job as a team leader and club spokesman. But our coaches also are seen by 50-60 million fans on television. And they (coaches and players who are watching) do on Monday what they see (our people) doing on Sunday. The object of the game is to play hard and not knock the opposing player out of the game, or out of a career."

Last season was normal for serious head injuries. But what's normal in the NFL, about 90 concussions, is far too many for Tagliabue. Indeed, only seven quarterbacks started all 16 games last year: Jeff George, Atlanta; Brett Favre, Green Bay; Jeff Hostetler, Los Angeles Raiders; Dan Marino, Miami; Drew Bledsoe, New England; Jim Everett, New Orleans; and Steve Young, San Francisco. True, many of the switches were out of choice. But a lot were out of necessity.



It will be hard to keep spirited coaches like the Pittsburgh Steelers' Bill Cowher off the officials.

Actually, the safety issue was first raised by an unlikely figure, retired NFL referee Jim Tunney. In a letter to Jerry Seeman, the NFL's director of officiating, Tunney recommended a series of significant rules changes. Among them was the elimination of what defensive players call "loading up," meaning the rip-up through the quarterback's chin.

Other Tunney ideas: Let the quarterback throw the ball away at any time, make contact with a receiver illegal until he clearly has two feet on the ground, unless such contact is incidental.

"I don't say there's dirty football," Tunney says. "But they (the players) are just much more aggressive. The blows to the chest that come up (the rip-up) are just like the old head slap. They never should be allowed. It's terminator football and it's been creeping in for years."

NFL owners also discussed the high turnover of head coaches. Seven were fired last year, 12 in the past two seasons. In the AFC West, Mike White (Raiders); Dennis Erickson (Seahawks) and Shanahan (Broncos) are all first-year coaches. In the NFC East, Ray Rhodes (Eagles) is a rookie. Barry Switzer (Cowboys), Norv Turner (Redskins) and Buddy Ryan (Cardinals) are in their second years. The dean of the division is Dan Reeves (Giants), who is starting his third year after a 12-year stint in Denver.

Interestingly enough, Reeves isn't as concerned about dirty tactics as he is about strutting, dancing and bumping.

"It's very difficult to keep your head up and your eyes up," Reeves said when asked about using the helmet as a weapon. "You always want to keep your eyes on the target, but that's not realistic. It's hard to keep your eyes from blinking. I've been in this game for 30 years, and I don't think there's really a problem with dirty tactics at all."

What concerns Reeves more are the little demonstrations that break out after a touchdown, sack or interception. And the demon-

What's normal in the NFL, about 90 concussions, is far too many for Tagliabue.

strator doesn't have to be on the team that is winning, either. A few years ago, Cincinnati wide receiver Tim McGee executed an over-the-shoulder super-spike against the Raiders with the Bengals trailing 28–7 late in the fourth quarter.

"I see it continually infiltrating to the young players," says Reeves. "The question is, where do you draw the line? I'm not saying a guy that scores a touchdown shouldn't be able to show emotion. But you watch the celebrations. One player's team in a (playoff) game was getting beat by Pittsburgh by 20 points. A safety missed a tackle, and this guy taunted and jumped up and strutted. Certainly, there's a thin line between emotion and taunting. We've got to draw the line somewhere."

NFL officials could eliminate the ball-waving and hip-shaking with a toss of the flag. But that, of course, would resurrect the old claim that NFL stands for No-Fun League.

Meanwhile, the league appeared more concerned with eliminating the NFL's bandanna look. San Francisco 49ers president Carmen Policy says he doesn't know what the objection was. A number of 49ers, among them Deion Sanders, wore scarlet bandannas, the 49er color.

Quarterbacks like Dan Marino have paid a heavy toll for roughing no-calls.

"It adds comfort," says Policy, "and it affords a buffer between the hair and the helmet. They're kind of attractive, really."

But Gene Washington, the NFL's director of football development, sees the bandanna issue as another kind of attraction.

"The truth is," says Washington, "a number of people in the last several years actually wondered why bandannas were allowed to be worn. It's not part of the uniform. And it's not something that is good for the league's image, particularly among young people in urban areas, where they think of it as a symbol, a gang image."

Then Washington offered a selection of one-liners:

"Why doesn't everybody wear one?"

"Why doesn't Jerry Rice wear one?"

"Why doesn't the running back from Detroit wear one? Who's kidding whom?"

You could say the same thing about those strutting, hip-twisting, chest-bumping, end-zone dancing, sack dancing celebrations that try to show up the player who is part of a bad play, as Reeves says.

Who's kidding whom? ■

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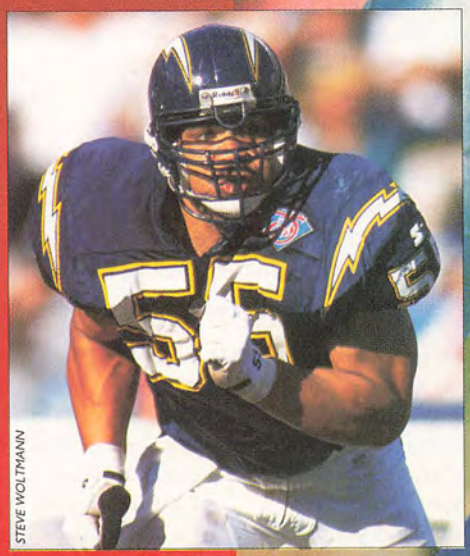
THE PLAYERS II

Troy Aikman was on the fast track to stardom before he left the UCLA campus. That track has taken him to two Super Bowls. Drew Bledsoe appears to be a budding star on and off the field. But is he too good to be true?

The Vikings' Cris Carter has survived a roller-coaster career, setting a record with 122 catches last season. The late Joe Don Looney, a supertalent, combined a physical presence and attitude mindful of some of today's stars.



STEVE WOLTMANN

STEVE WOLTMANN

YOUNG PATRIOT

New England's Drew Bledsoe is quickly developing into a revolutionary NFL quarterback

By DAN SHAUGHNESSY
BOSTON GLOBE

It was a pretty wild ride for a couple of months. Drew Bledsoe was throwing the ball more times than anyone in National Football League history, the Patriots were ripping off seven wins in a row, New England was a dark horse to make it to the Super Bowl, and No. 11 "Bledsoe" jerseys were popping up all over Greater Boston.

Everybody wanted a piece of the kid quarterback from Walla Walla, Wash. One night he went out to do a radio gig at a local restaurant, and he darn near got his clothes torn off as people scratched and clawed to get near him. By Christmas time, Bledsoe had been named to the Pro Bowl, the Patriots were heading to the playoffs for the first time in eight years, and there were no No. 11 jerseys left in the shopping malls. He donned a tuxedo and read "The Night Before Christmas" with the world-famous Boston Pops orchestra.

It was a bit much, really. Coach Bill Parcells kept saying, "He's not ready for Canton yet," but just about everybody else anointed Bledsoe as "the new Dan Marino."

Bledsoe was hit with a splash of reality on New Year's Day in Cleveland. The Browns intercepted three of his passes, defeating the Patriots 20–13 in a wild-card playoff game. In the second half, when the Patriots scored only a field goal, Bledsoe completed just 10 of 26 passes for 96 yards.

Asked to evaluate his season after the defeat, Bledsoe said, "Right now it feels like a disaster because we just lost. I'm sure it will feel better later. But we had a chance to move on, and unfortunately, we didn't do anything with our opportunity."

When the subject of playoff inexperience was raised, Bledsoe snapped, "Playoff inexperience didn't have anything to do with it. I simply missed one or two throws that I usually hit. Any time we lose, I feel I wasn't as sharp as I needed to be. It tends to hurt more when you lose a game like this. It hurts a little more when you have a chance to go on. But hopefully, this will be a motivating factor for us in the off-season. It was a valuable experience. We won some ball games. We proved that we can do that. We got into the playoffs and got a taste of what it's like at that level, and I think that experience will help."

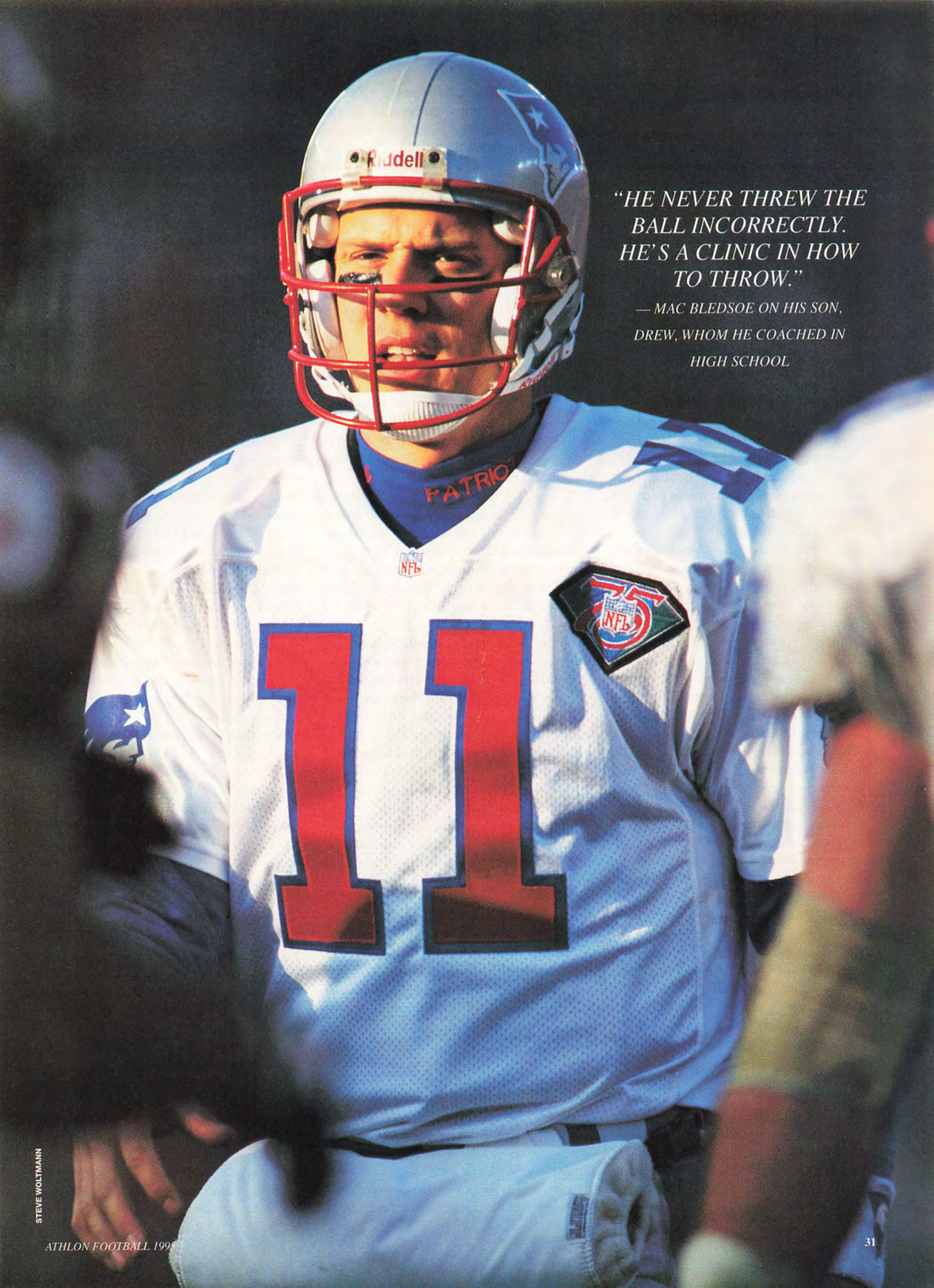
This is why New England fans are drooling in anticipation. As the 1995 pro football season nears, this is a team on the rise, and Bledsoe is expected to take the Pats to the proverbial next level. Win, lose or Drew, it will not be boring. Heck, the kid put it in the air 70 times in one game against the Minnesota Vikings last year.

Not since Larry Bird has a young athlete inspired this much hope in the Hub of the Universe. Roger Clemens managed to do it for a season, but his star was tainted by a holdout, a suspension, an ejection, an arrest and a series of regrettable statements.

Two years into his career, Bledsoe, 23, has yet to do anything that would turn off the fans. He's been careful to spread the credit and shoulder the blame. He's kept his name off the gossip columns and police blotters. He's steered clear of card shows and public pouts of any kind. And he is on a track to become the most prolific passer in the history of the National Football League.

Last year, Bledsoe completed 400 of an NFL-record 691 passes (57.9 percent) for 4,555 yards and 25 touchdowns, with 27 interceptions. Against Minnesota, he completed 45 of 70 passes (both single-game NFL records), rallying the Patriots from a 20–3 halftime deficit to a 26–20 triumph, the first of seven consecutive regular-season-ending victories.

It would be neither insulting nor inaccurate to state that Bledsoe is a "natural" quarterback. He was born on Valentine's Day in 1972, the first son of Mac and Barbara Bledsoe. Mac played football at the University of Washington (1965–67) and ran a football camp at Whitworth College in Spokane, Wash. Former All-Pro Oakland wide receiver Fred Biletnikoff came to the camp one



"HE NEVER THREW THE BALL INCORRECTLY. HE'S A CLINIC IN HOW TO THROW."

— MAC BLEDSOE ON HIS SON, DREW, WHOM HE COACHED IN HIGH SCHOOL

STEVE WOLTMANN

summer, and it has been duly recorded that 2-year-old Drew once relieved himself in Biletnikoff's shoes.

So the kid grew up around football and football players. He had a good head for the game right from the start. Then Bledsoe's body caught up with his mind. He grew to be 6–5, 233 pounds, and he was able to put his whole body into his passes.

Mac Bledsoe, now an English teacher and assistant coach at Eisenhower High School in Yakima, Wash., says, "He never threw the ball incorrectly. He's a clinic in how to throw. You have to see it at field level to appreciate it. It's not his arm, it's his body; the arm is just along for the ride."

Drew played for his dad at Walla Walla High. It was awkward at first because there's always that appearance of nepotism, but when he threw for 2,560 yards and 25 touchdowns in his senior season, nobody accused Mac Bledsoe of favoring his son.

At Washington' State, Drew Bledsoe played briefly under veteran quarterback Brad Gossen. Seven games into Bledsoe's freshman season, he became the starter. It was not a popular move by coach Mike Price. Bledsoe had to do the same thing he did in high school; he had to prove it on the field. No problem. By the time he was a junior, he was ready to come out of college as the top pick in the NFL draft.

The field is Bledsoe's sanctuary. On the field, he needn't worry about parents, girlfriends, autograph-hungry fans, nitwit sports columnists, agents, corporate sponsors, meddling owners or jealous teammates standing on the sidelines. On the field, it's just you and your talent. Bledsoe has always been comfortable with this challenge. Defensive linemen and blitzing linebackers don't rattle him. It's only football and Bledsoe loves football. He loves the games.

"That's where I want to be, on the field," he says. "That's where I can tune everything out and just do what I like to do."

The Patriots were 2–14 in 1992. They were the longtime laughingstock of the NFL. The reign of the Sullivan family produced dozens of calamities, and it only got worse when Victor Kiam bought the team. Parcells, the man with a pair of Super Bowl rings, came on board after the 1992 disaster. His first task was the selection of a franchise player. On draft day 1993, Parcells selected Bledsoe over Notre Dame's Rick Mirer.

The coach was reluctant to put too much pressure on his 21-year-old phenom, but by the middle of the preseason, it was clear that Bledsoe would start over Scott Zolak and Tommy Hodson. The rookie was Parcells' opening-day starter. By the end of his rookie year, Bledsoe had passed for 2,494 yards and 15 touchdowns. He missed three games due to a knee injury but still put together the fourth-best rookie season in NFL quarterbacking history. The Pats, after starting 1–11, won their last four games in 1993, including the finale at home against Miami, when Bledsoe completed 27 of 43 passes for 329 yards and four touchdowns in a 33–27 overtime victory against the Dolphins.

After the season was over, the kid quarterback hopped in his car and drove 3,000 miles by himself. He went home.

"I drove back home alone on purpose to give me time to think about it," Bledsoe says. "It was shocking what had happened to me in a year. It was awe-inspiring to think how fast it had all happened.

"I was 21. I had $4 million in the bank. I was an NFL quarterback. Some of it was ridiculous, to tell you the truth, but the one thing that struck me by the time I got home was that I was the same guy I always was. I was able to play in the NFL and not feel like I was a different person than the one I'd been all those years."

Bledsoe's parents have helped him keep his feet on the ground. They were with their son in New York when he was drafted, but they spend almost all their time back home in Yakima. Drew's brother, Adam, is the quarterback for Eisenhower High, and he needs coach Bledsoe more than Drew does. Barbara Bledsoe looks younger than some of Drew's teammates. She sometimes corresponds with members of the Boston media, particularly those who have taken flattering photographs of her son. An English teacher herself, she has been known to use some of Drew's press clippings as writing samples in her classroom. Mac and Barbara have a little saying: Home is where you can go even if you don't throw touchdowns.

Bledsoe's manners are a tribute to his parents. He's quiet, humble and polite. He can become exasperated with the intrusiveness and repetitiveness of the media's questions, but he has yet to lose his cool with the Fourth Estate. He's careful to credit his receivers and linemen, and won't allow himself to be baited into a lengthy discussion of his sometimes difficult relationship with Parcells.

"Coach Parcells is very demanding," says Bledsoe. "He expects a lot and he wants it done his way. I know I have a lot to learn."

"I haven't even let him have it yet," Parcells says with a chuckle. "Ask Phil Simms what I can be like. Drew hears it from me sometimes, but that's the way it's going to be."

Last February, in the middle of the offseason, Bledsoe said, "I feel like calling him up so he can yell at me over the phone," then added, "It's starting to become a pretty good relationship. It will always be perceived as one-sided, but our relationship is not as one-sided as people think. He'll yell and scream and I'll talk back to him quietly. I hardly ever yell about anything, so if you see me yelling, you'll know I'm upset. With Bill, yelling is a Jersey thing. I'm from the West Coast. It's a different way to relate."

For eight months of the year, Bledsoe's home in New England is a five-bedroom, $350,000 house in Bridgewater, Mass., not far from Foxboro Stadium. He lives with his girlfriend, Maura Healy, a 22-year-old student at Bridgewater State. She was a schoolmate at Washington State, but he convinced her to transfer to Bridgewater after his rookie season with the Patriots. Bledsoe likes big-screen TVs, CD-ROM, laser discs and Henry Weinhard's Private Resort beer. Teammates like him because he doesn't consciously hog the spotlight, he doesn't make excuses and he is tough. Players know. Bledsoe in his two seasons has gotten off the turf after some excruciating hits. He is not afraid to get hit. New England fans tremble whenever it happens, but he has remained injury-free except for those three games in his rookie season.

There hasn't been much criticism from the media. Not yet. But when Bledsoe is critiqued, he has been able to tune it out. NFL coach-turned-commentator Jerry Glanville last season pointed out that Bledsoe pats the football with his left hand just before cocking to throw. Bledsoe laughed. When he was hit with some columnists' darts after his worst game, against Cleveland in the playoff, Bledsoe said, "I expect it. When we don't play well and lose, I'm going to get blamed."

Bledsoe has learned to keep moving in crowds. He has learned to avoid looking up if a pack of people expects him to stand around and sign autographs all afternoon. He has learned to say no to some of the requests and demands.

Sunday is Bledsoe's day of rest. On Sunday, he gets to go out on the field and use his talent. He gets to play in the best league in the world, and he gets to stand in the middle of the field where only the defense can bother him.

For the first time in a long while, there were a lot of good Sundays in New England last year. Patriots fans expect a lot more this year and in seasons to come. ■

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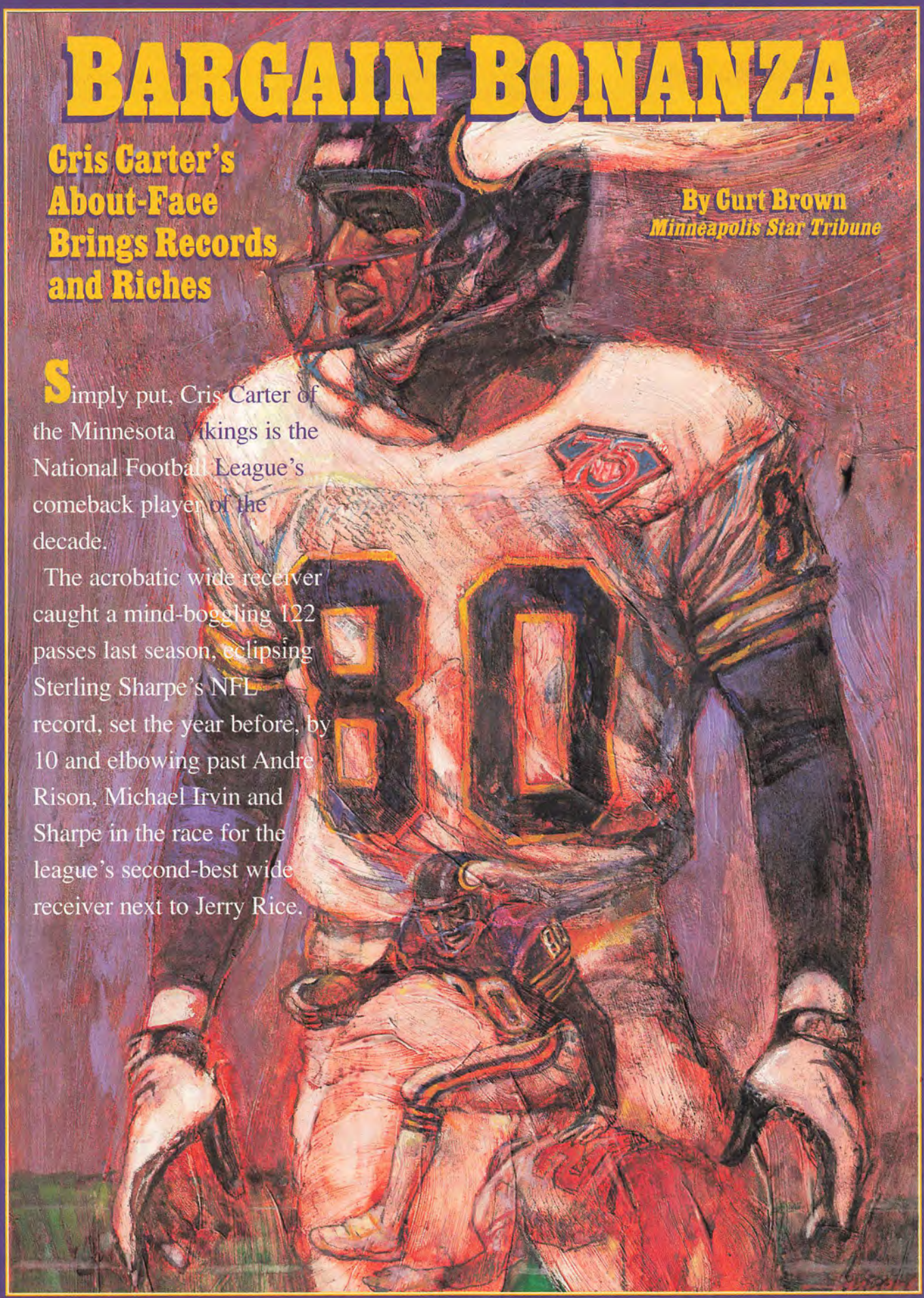
BARGAIN BONANZA

Cris Carter's About-Face Brings Records and Riches

By Curt Brown
Minneapolis Star Tribune



Simply put, Cris Carter of the Minnesota Vikings is the National Football League's comeback player of the decade.

The acrobatic wide receiver caught a mind-boggling 122 passes last season, eclipsing Sterling Sharpe's NFL-record, set the year before, by 10 and elbowing past Andre Rison, Michael Irvin and Sharpe in the race for the league's second-best wide receiver next to Jerry Rice.

Bargain Bonanza

But Carter's career looked like it might wilt long before it had time to blossom. After setting career records for both total receptions and touchdown catches at Ohio State, where he was a first-team All-American in 1986, Carter lost his eligibility when his name surfaced in the 1987 federal investigation of agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom. They were convicted of racketeering and mail fraud. Carter was the only player charged in the scandal. He was fined $15,000, given three years probation and ordered to perform 600 hours of community service for lying to a grand jury and failing to disclose a $5,000 payment from a third agent.

Carter landed with the Philadelphia Eagles but was cut loose by then-coach Buddy Ryan after the season of 1989. Carter admits his life was out of control. He was drinking and partying, and it was getting him nowhere. The Vikings claimed him off waivers before the 1990 season. The price tag? A mere $100.

Since then, Carter has cleaned up his life and — not so coincidentally — his reception totals have zoomed from 53 to 86 to 122 from 1992–94. That's been enough to earn him a couple of consecutive Pro Bowl berths and a contract extension through 1998 worth $11.5 million, including a signing bonus of $2.7 million, that makes him one of the highest-paid receivers in the National Football League and the highest-paid player in the history of the Minnesota franchise. Not bad for a $100 castoff cut loose when the decade began.

Q: What do you think of Buddy Ryan today, five years after he cut you?

Carter: I like Buddy, he gave me my first chance. He called me in back then and asked me if I wanted to stay in Philadelphia. If I did, he said he wanted to make me his third receiver. I was young. I was 24. And I was angry he was demoting me and bringing in other guys. I said my attitude would be detrimental to the team and that it would be best for me to go someplace else. So he cut me.

Q: How was that a blessing in disguise?

Carter: I changed so much after that, especially as far as my work habits. I changed my eating habits, too, cutting down on the amount of red meat. And when I came to Minnesota, I stopped drinking.

Q: Were you an alcoholic?

Carter: I didn't think I had a drinking problem but I did drink socially. I was not doing the things that I should have been doing. I could act any way I wanted to act and I didn't have to control myself. But since the first week I arrived in Minnesota five years ago, I haven't had a drink.

Q: What fueled that change in your lifestyle?

Carter: I just wanted to get better. I made up my mind when I came to Minnesota that I'd never put myself in a position where another person — be it Buddy or anyone else — had that much control over my life.

"I made up my mind that I'd never put myself in a position where another person had that much control over my life."

Q: When the '94 season ended with a third-straight first-round playoff loss, you seemed so disappointed despite such a historical season. What were your emotions?

Carter: It's so disappointing when you lose. You start thinking about how this is not a little boy's game anymore. I still love to play and I try to play as hard as I can, but it doesn't always work out the way you want it to. The game is such a business now, it's not like when I was little boy and I used to go out in the backyard and choose up sides.

Q: What would you change about the NFL if you could change anything?

Carter: I'd like to see something done about injured players getting cut. And I'm not just talking about Sterling Sharpe's situation. There are many others. If you think the teams are going to show concern for you, you're kidding yourself. But I think something should be done to prevent teams from just cutting you when you've been injured on the job.

Q: Jerry Rice has had Joe Montana and Steve Young on the other end of the spirals. Michael Irvin has had Troy Aikman. Sterling Sharpe has had Brett Favre. After going through Wade Wilson, Rich Gannon and Sean Salisbury, how much did Warren Moon's arrival contribute to your 122-catch season?

Carter: If the guy behind the center can't make plays, I'm not going to make too much of a difference. But Warren Moon can make plays. He is so accurate and so experienced. He's helped me a great deal. I always tell him: "When in doubt, just throw it high and I'll go up and get it."

Q: Do you consider those touchdown leaps your signature catches?

Carter: My brother, Butch, played basketball in the NBA, and I always loved basketball. I'm 6–3, and that's taller than most defensive backs who cover me. So I always like my chances of going up over people to get the ball. Last season, I started doing something new: diving for the first-down marker when I was close on a third down.

"It's so disappointing when you lose. You start thinking about how this is not a little boy's game anymore."

Q: The NFC is so loaded with marquee-name receivers, but now that Rison is in Cleveland and Sharpe is out for a year, do you think you'll get the attention you deserve?

Carter: That's hard to say, but I certainly do think I'm playing as well as anyone in the league right now. I just want to take the abilities God has blessed me with and make the most of them.

Q: You've always been vocal on the field, when did you become a team leader?

Carter: I think I always possessed good leadership skills, but the question is whether your teammates want to accept your leadership. That takes time. Early in my career, I didn't have to lead. I could act any way I wanted to. As I've grown older and changed my life, I think my teammates look to me more for leadership.

Q: You turn 30 this season. How much longer do you plan on playing and what might you do after the NFL?

Carter: I think probably three more years will be about it for me. Football is such a business now. I'm not saying last season wasn't fun and having Warren around wasn't great, but you start thinking about other things. And the ministry will definitely be part of my future in some fashion.

Q: Would you talk a little about your religion?

Carter: I let the Lord into my life one year ago, and I think it helped me straighten out my priorities. I'm more focused now on making the most of the the abilities God has blessed me with, and that's why I go down on my knee and say a little prayer when I score touchdowns.

Q: You are not the only one praying in the end zone. Is that an individual decision or a larger movement?

Carter: Both. I think it's something I decided as an individual to do to show my faith in God, but several players have talked about our religon and so it's kind of a group thing, too. I know I talked to Raghib Ismail and his brother, Qadry, and it was something we all decided to do.

Q: How much did the new no-chuck rules help in setting the record?

Carter: Not much at all. Early in the season, referees were calling penalties when there was contact downfield. But that ended quickly, and things were the same as always back there for most of the year.

Q: Sharpe caught 112 passes two seasons ago. You pulled in 122 in '94. How high can the number go?

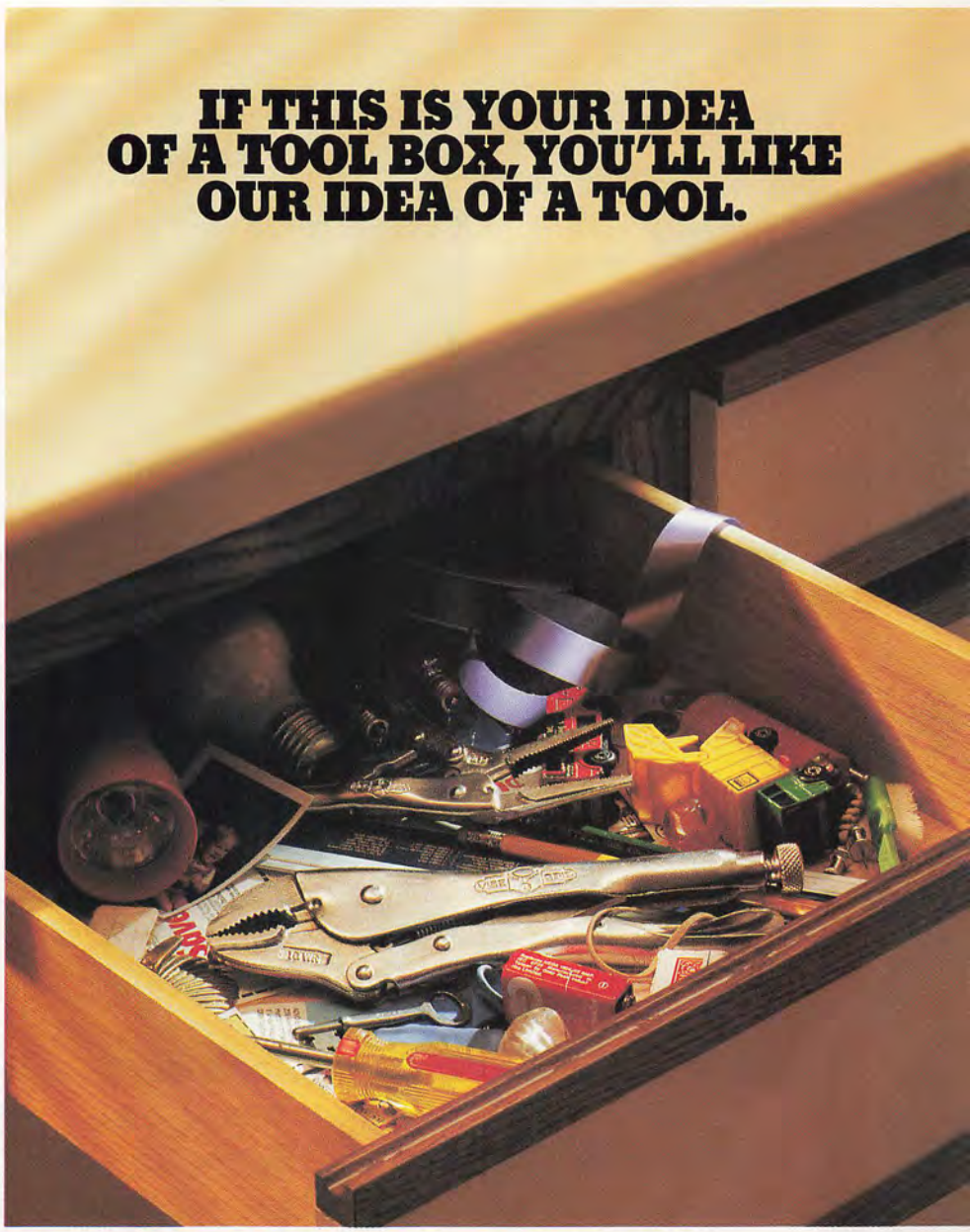
Carter: So much depends on staying healthy and having a good quarterback who stays healthy as well. But I think it's possible for someone to get up into the 130s.

Q: What were you most proud of from your record-setting season?

Carter: I think if you look back, you'll find there were only a couple of weeks when I caught fewer than five passes. I think consistency was something I didn't always have early in my career, and that was an important part of my season. I'm also happy I was able to help Jake Reed develop (the total of 207 receptions, 122 by Carter and 85 by Reed, was an NFL record for a tandem). I've been through so much, and I wanted to help a young player not have to go through everything I did. We're very close, and our relationship brings me a lot of satisfaction.

Q: What are your goals for 1995?

Carter: Boy, I haven't really thought about that. The season is so long and grueling, and it's just nice to get away from everything. I live in Florida during the off-season, spending time with my wife and two children, and playing a lot of golf. Next season, I just hope to stay healthy, be consistent, keep winning and make the most of the talents God has blessed me with. ■



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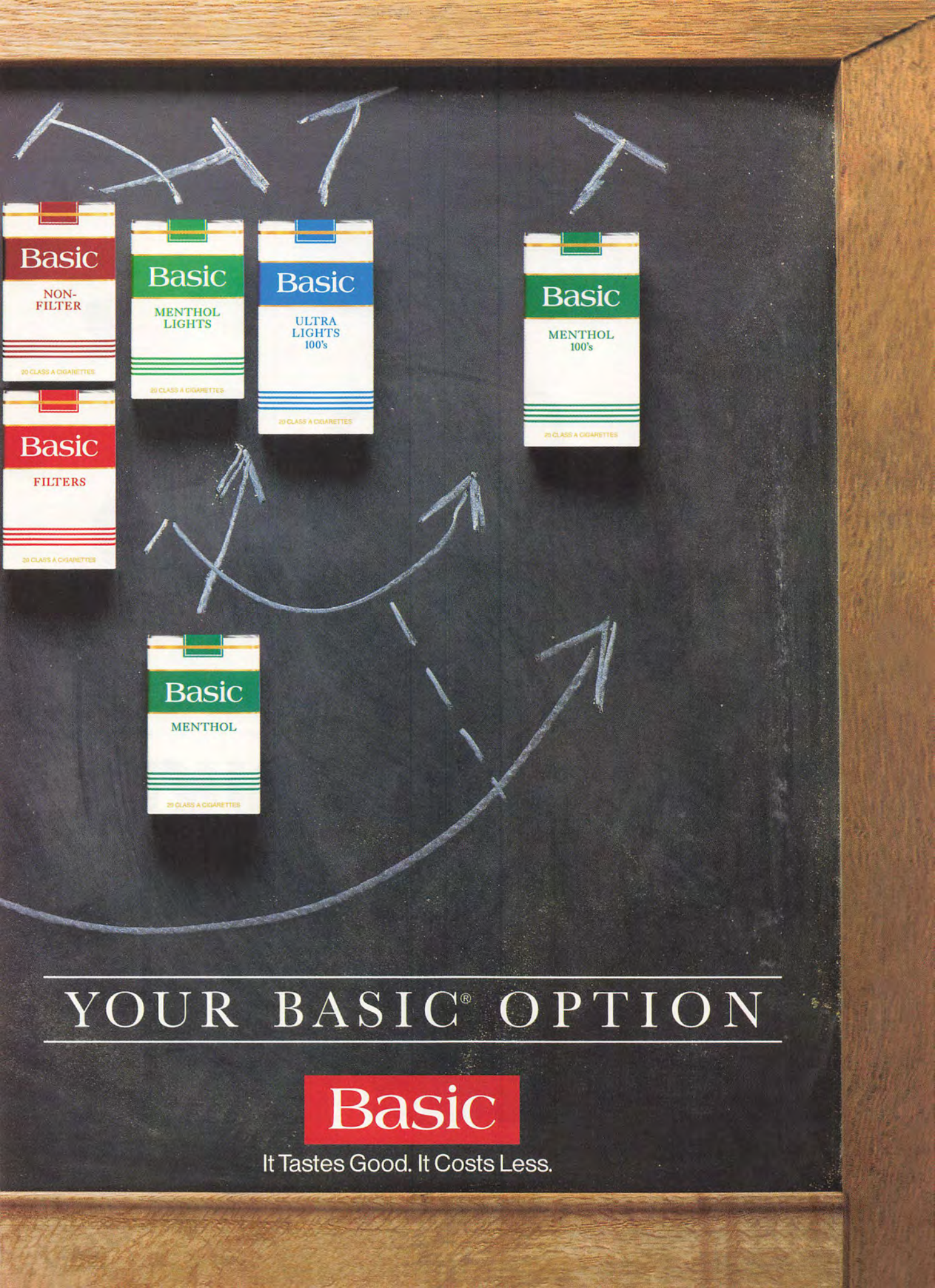
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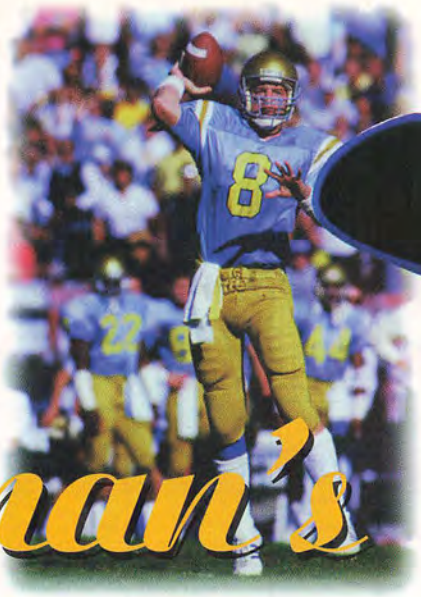


Troy Aikman's COLLEGE MEMORIES

By ED WERDER
The Dallas Morning News

Capitulation was total but the triumph was incomplete for Troy Aikman.

"It was such an important game, and we wanted to win so desperately," he said recently. "Then we had such a huge (early) lead, I think it took away from the feeling of winning because (later) it became our game to lose."

Aikman recalled the occasion as he prepared to depart the Dallas Cowboys' practice facility in his white Corvette. The performance to which he referred took place seven bygone years in the Rose Bowl, the January 1 game in which Aikman would never play and the site where he led the Cowboys to the Super Bowl championship.

Aikman was the Most Valuable Player in Super Bowl XXVII as the Cowboys punished the Buffalo Bills from the first television timeout until the last shower spigot was turned off in the Rose Bowl locker room. He completed 22 of 30 passes, four for touchdowns, in a 52–17 rout.

While Aikman's showing on Jan. 31, 1993, in the first of Dallas' two consecutive Super Bowl championships remains the pinnacle of his pro career, he reflected this time on the top game of his college days.

What became victory No. 100 for UCLA coach Terry Donahue positioned Aikman, with his three touchdown passes, as a leading contender for the Heisman Trophy. The Bruins overpowered normally physical, usually competent, No. 2-ranked (at the time, Sept. 10, 1988) Nebraska 41–28 before 84,086 at the Rose Bowl and a national television audience.

The outcome was particularly stunning because the Cornhuskers were previously dominant in matchups against UCLA that usually became mismatches. Tom Osborne's teams had never permitted so many points and, furthermore, had maintained an apparent chokehold on the Bruins after prevailing 42–10 and 42–3 in 1983 and 1984, and also winning 42–33 in 1987.

Those lopsided scores led to a provocative remark by Donahue before their meeting in the second week of the 1988 season. The UCLA coach suggested Doctor Tom's Cornhuskers were not a normal team because of modern medicine, which some considered a thinly veiled reference to steroid use. Donahue clarified his remarks later, saying he made no accusation of Nebraska players using steroids.

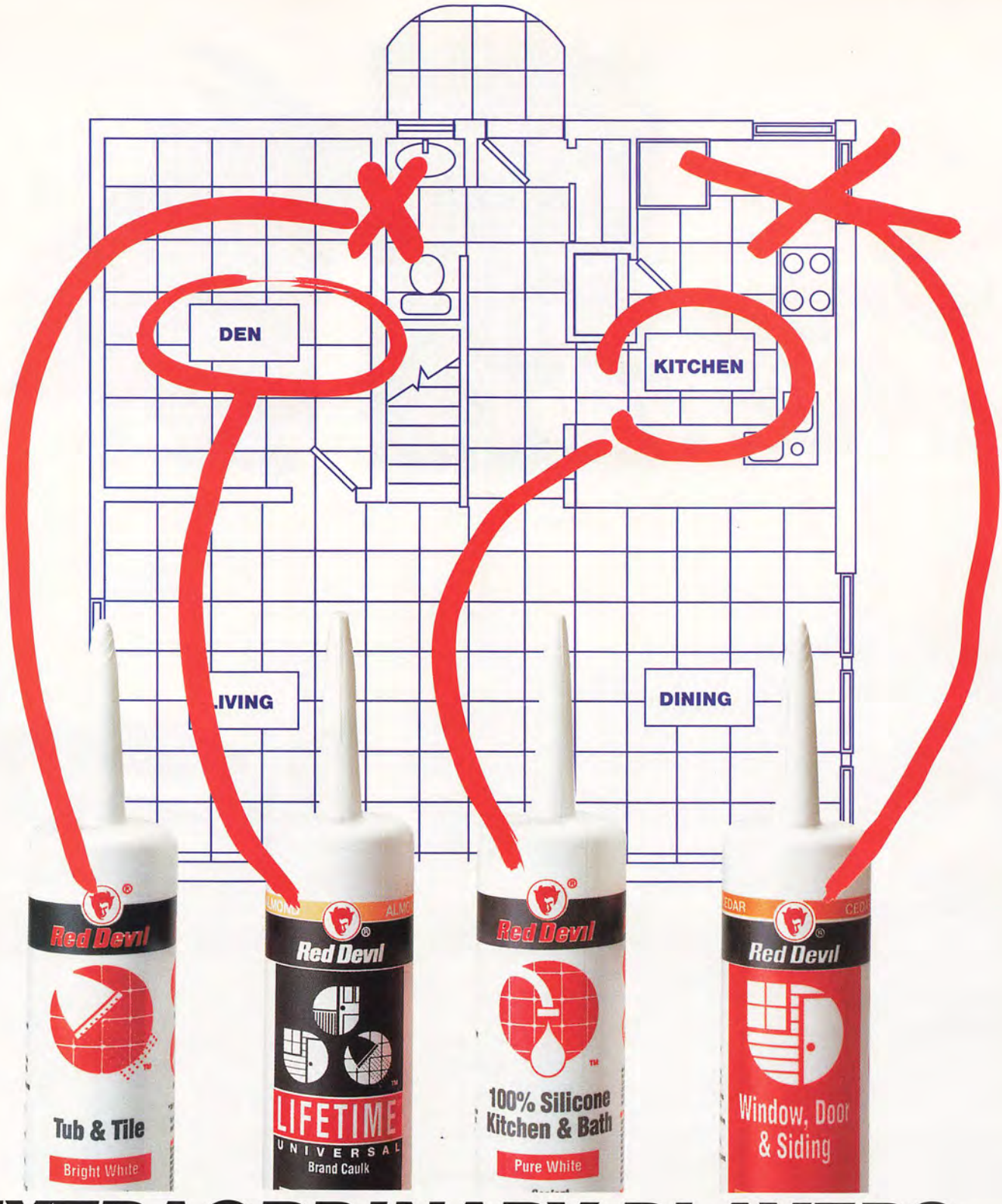
Thus, Nebraska was upset twice in the same week. If Donahue led the first, it was Aikman who directed the second. He threw touchdown passes of 57 and 3 yards to tight end Charles Arbuckle and an 11-yarder to David Keating as the Bruins compiled a 38–13 halftime lead.

Donahue called his team's performance the most impressive overall in his 13 seasons at UCLA to then. The Bruins totaled 344 yards and averaged 9 yards per snap.

"It's very rare that a team comes out and makes Nebraska look bad," Aikman said.

The fact the Bruins did just that left them undefeated, but Aikman was somewhat deflated nonetheless. The ultracompetitive quarterback wanted more of a challenge from Nebraska.

"We didn't get to wait until the last five minutes to find out we were going to win," Aikman said. "We knew at halftime that if we didn't, it would be awful. We mistakenly thought we would win the national championship after that game, but we underestimated the strength of Washington State."■



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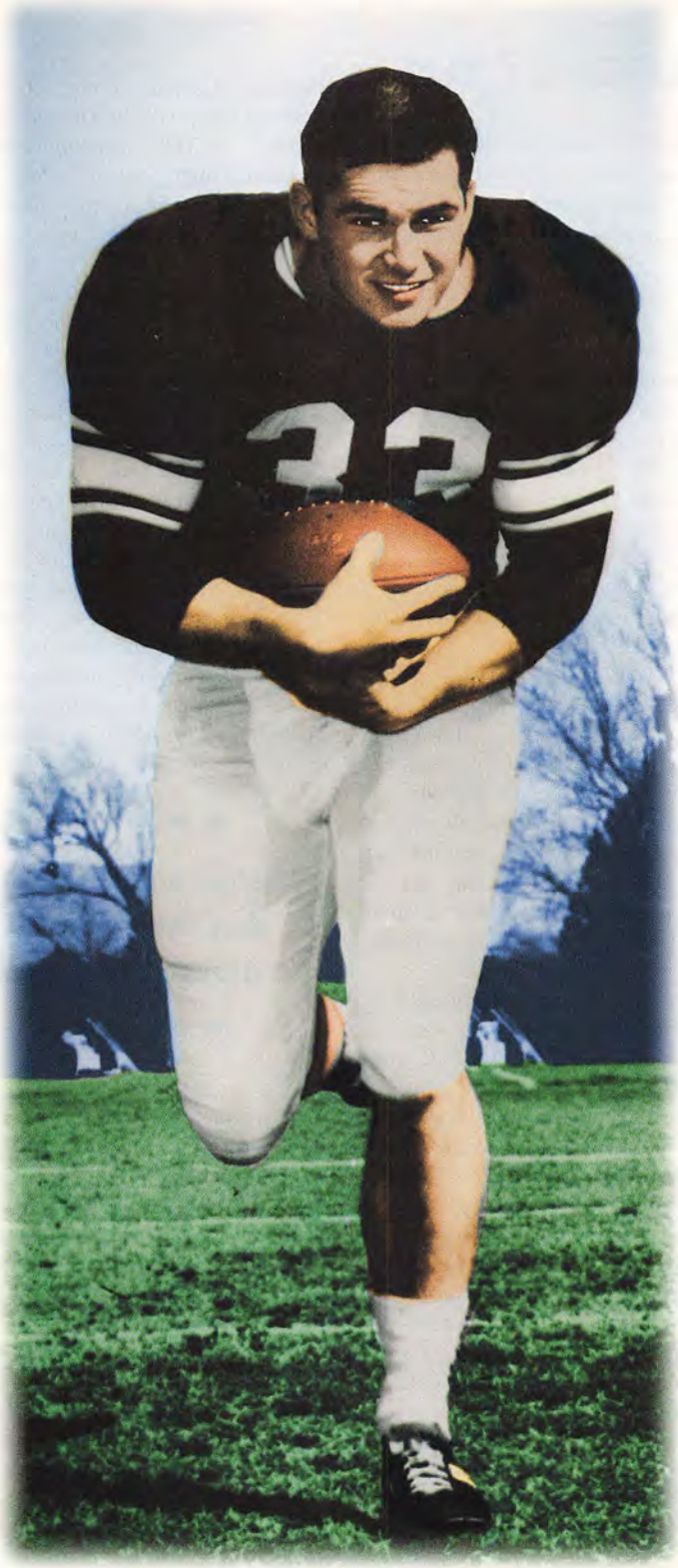
NO LOONEY TUNE

By ALAN ROSS



HE was a nova. A supernova, really.

Like a star that explodes in brilliance only to quickly fade away, Joe Don Looney's brief shining moment on this planet all too hurriedly came and went.

But what a life: athletic accomplishments, bizarre behavior, mysticism. His journey took him from the playing fields of college and professional football to the heart-pounding suspense of international drug smuggling in foreign countries to the eventual company of a Siddha swami in India in his search for internal peace and self-fulfillment. An authentic rebel with a hair-trigger temperament, Looney also had a dark side; he was a hell-raiser of monumental proportions whose escapades are recounted to this day.

Looney's fame on the football field was substantial in the short time he played. He was a star on the 1961 Cameron Junior College (Lawton, Okla.) team that won the Junior Rose Bowl game for the JC national championship. He chose Oklahoma from among the major college offers that poured in following his junior college All-America honorable mention. He had briefly attended Texas in the fall of 1960, where word of his fraternity flag-football exploits was rumored to have attracted Longhorn coach Darrell Royal's attention. Looney had left, harboring a wish to stick it to Texas in the Cotton Bowl on national television, a dream that never materialized. But he made his time at Oklahoma count, gaining All-America attention (*Football News*) as a running back while leading the nation in punting (43.4-yard average) in 1962, his one full season with the Sooners.

After being dismissed for disciplinary reasons a third of the way through the 1963 season, Looney later that year was tabbed as the New York Giants' No. 1 draft choice. His professional career, which included five seasons, was a traveling circus with stops in Baltimore, Detroit, Washington and New Orleans. Don't bother looking for Joe Don Looney football cards; neither Topps nor Philadelphia issued a single card in his name during his career.

His debut in the public eye came in his first game for Oklahoma, and it was simply spectacular. Looney, the first junior college transfer in Sooner football history, was unleashed late in the 1962 season opener against Syracuse. But not before sideline action that, as former Oklahoma teammate and Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Lance Rentzel related in his autobiography, *When All the Laughter Died in Sorrow* (Saturday Review Press), was right out of the "movies that kids see on Saturday afternoon."

With Oklahoma locked in a defensive

NO LOONEY TUNE

struggle, down 3–0 and just 2:07 left in the game, Looney, who had been sitting next to Rentzel, suddenly jumped up and went over to the Sooners' legendary coach, Bud Wilkinson.

"Get me in the game and I'll win it for you, coach," Looney said. Wilkinson, who could have reacted strongly against such youthful impudence, simply said OK and waved the first-year player onto the field.

Three plays later, on his second carry, Looney, as *The New York Times* put it the following day, "burst through the entire Syracuse team, jerked away from three tacklers and sped into the end zone."

An uneasy legend had been created.

The events leading up to that improbable 60-yard touchdown dash cover the canvas.

Born Oct. 10, 1942, in San Angelo, Texas, Looney's early years were marked by rebellion and introspection. The conformity of life at home under strict parents wasn't as appealing as the companionship and love of an uncle. Bill Looney spun tale after tale to his nephew of a spiritual journey that had taken him all the way to India and the Himalayas in quest of the ultimate meaning of life, a path that Joe Don would follow years later.

In J. Brent Clark's in-depth account of Looney's life, *3rd Down and Forever: Joe Don Looney and the Rise and Fall of an American Hero* (St. Martin's Press), Clark maintains that the public's lingering interest in Looney, in some quarters almost at cult status, is due not to his tremendous athleticism and subsequent failure to achieve superstardom but rather to his "bizarre, and heroic, lifelong rejection of traditional American values." Clark documents Looney's preoccupation with Eastern religion as a teenager, when he read such books as the popular *On The Road*, Jack Kerouac's classic, before heading into deeper waters via a multivolume treasure given him by his uncle, *Life and Teachings of the Masters of the Far East*.. Not exactly your standard literary bill of fare for boys growing up in the '50s.

It all helped insulate young Looney from a world he began to view as increasingly hypocritical. His father, Don Looney, commented that he believed Joe Don's troubles in the National Football League were a direct result of his intolerance for anything but the truth.

"When a guy was lying to him, he could tell," said the elder Looney.

Now 78, Don Looney had set high standards of excellence for his son to follow. Back in 1938 and '39, Don had been a star receiver at TCU, catching passes from Heisman Trophy winner Davey O'Brien en route to a Sugar Bowl appearance. Don then joined the NFL's Philadelphia Eagles, introducing himself by leading the league in pass receptions as a rookie in 1940 with 58 catches for 707 yards. Many of those passes were thrown by the diminutive (5–7) O'Brien, who preceded the elder Looney's arrival in Philadelphia by a year. The blueprint for success was forever stamped on young Joe Don, a condition that would influence his erratic behavior the rest of his life.

The side of Looney that the professional football world saw was that of an enormously talented, handsome, lightning-quick, 6–2, 225-pounder, who appeared to occasionally amble about with the lights out — a flake, though one with great intelligence.

In a 1966 interview with Looney for his book, *The Pros* (Platt & Munk), Robert Liston wrote: "He had a quick, agile mind that overflowed with thoughts and ideas. He was a perceptive person, intelligent, informed. These qualities, admirable in themselves, combined with an intense and volatile nature, must have made the reining in of his mind and emotions more difficult for Looney than for other men."

"He had a quick, agile mind that overflowed with thoughts and ideas."

Don Shula of the Miami Dolphins, Looney's coach with the Baltimore Colts in 1964, once remarked that he thought Joe Don, who ran a 6.3 60-yard dash and a 9.5 100, had the physical tools to be another Jim Brown. Otto Graham, Hall of Fame quarterback of the Cleveland Browns who was voted to the NFL's 75th Anniversary All-Time Team, coached Looney as a College All-Star and later with the Washington Redskins, a Looney whistle stop in 1966.

"I would compare him with Herschel Walker," Graham commented recently. "Looney was a big, strong, straight-ahead runner, hard to bring down. But, running laterally, neither one could cut or juke anybody in the open field. The only thing I felt Joe Don lacked as a player was that, as a receiver, he was all thumbs."

And all elbows when it came to imbibing spirits. Looney often was portrayed as the original party animal who headed for good times as a desert survivor heads for water. However, according to Baltimore teammate Alex Hawkins, Looney actually didn't drink much, but when he did, he wreaked havoc. Everyone who knew him had a favorite Joe Don story. His antics became so well-known that, according to Clark, when Looney made a surprise return to Norman in 1968 for an alumni-varsity spring game, word quickly circulated that he was sitting in the south end zone stands. Some of the players just concluding practice wandered over simply to gawk at the legend.

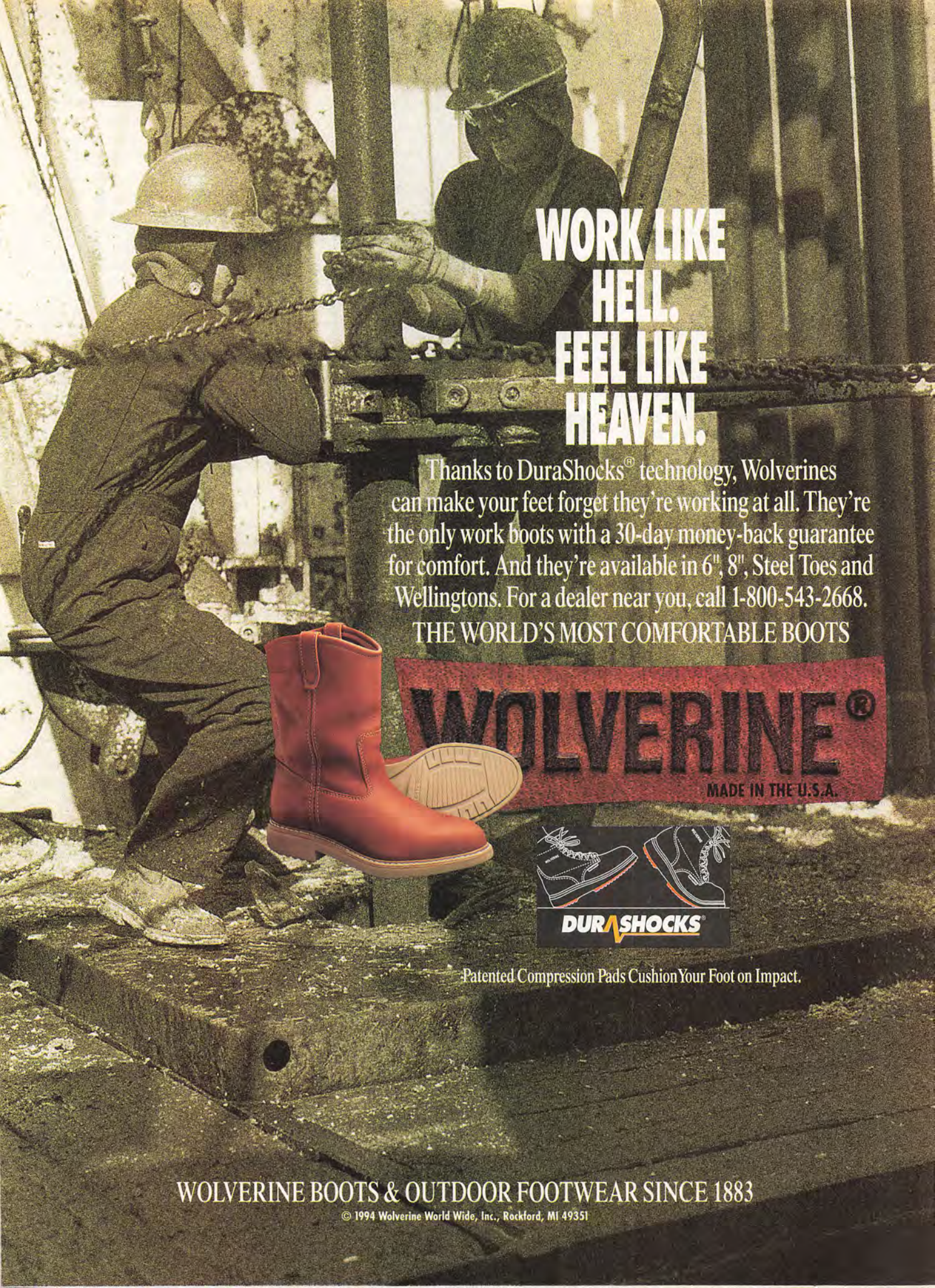
Duey Graham, Otto's son and a water boy/equipment manager for his coaching dad during the 1964 College All-Star Game in Chicago, remembers a notorious Looney tale that quickly made the rounds at the All-Star camp.

"A couple of the guys and Joe Don were out partying with some stewardesses one night," Duey recalls. "Evidently, they all went back to the apartment building, where one of the girls lived, and an argument of some sort broke out. Next thing you know, Joe Don heaves a TV set out the 15th-story window. The cops were called, they all take off and Joe Don winds up being chased down a street and having to hide under a car all night to escape."

Hawkins recalls Election Night 1964, when Looney, a zealous follower of conservative Republican presidential candidate Barry Goldwater, got into a heated political debate with a couple from his apartment complex. As the early returns came in, it became painfully clear to Looney that his man from Arizona was going to lose by a landslide.

Still fuming from the earlier argument, Looney stomped to the neighbor's apartment and rekindled the exchange through the locked door. It wasn't long before an enraged Looney kicked the door down and assaulted the man. Later that evening, Hawkins, popularly known as Captain Who? during his NFL playing days with Baltimore and Atlanta, was contacted by the Colts' front office and instructed to go babysit Joe Don, who they said would shortly be arrested by the police. Hawkins remembers knocking on Looney's door. When a suspicious Joe Don was satisfied with the caller's identity, Hawkins heard the sound of a dresser and other heavy furniture being moved away from the door on the other side.

"Looney had barricaded himself in,"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NO LOONEY TUNE

Hawkins says. "There was a near-empty case of beer on the floor. I wound up staying all night with him, listening to his plans to one day buy an island in the Pacific. It was an unbelievable night."

The eccentric player's reign of terror and violence, which included a drug-running period in the early '70s in Hawaii and Peru, ultimately yielded to a kinder, gentler Joe Don.

Former Oklahoma teammate Geary "Bear" Taylor, who once roomed with Looney, remembers his engaging, sensitive side.

"There was an old landing strip on the other side of the Canadian River," says Taylor. "We were hunting field larks out there one day when Joe Don spotted a jackrabbit. He lit out after it. Of course, he was in peak condition in those days. Joe Don actually out-flanked the jackrabbit and began to run it in a circle. After seven or eight minutes, he finally caught it, then lay down on the ground with it, holding the animal close."

After several minutes of exchanging heartbeats, Looney set the jackrabbit free.

In 1975, an introduction to Swami Muktananda, a Siddha meditation master with ashrams in Ganeshpuri, India, South Fallsburg, N.Y., and Oakland, Calif., changed his life. The Indian saint, "Baba" to those who knew him, had attracted worldwide followers and believers. Looney was now among them.

It was as if he had been seeking the solace and serenity of an inner journey all his life. The earlier mystical influence of Looney's uncle began to manifest. Joe Don embraced the discipline and the healing ways of his new guru. Friends say that his conversion was undeniably genuine. Even his own mother and father, who had taken more than a broadside share of his insolent behavior and self-absorption, couldn't help but notice the about-face in their only son.

Well into his spiritual rebirth, Looney had shed the well-defined musculature of his playing days and was on a strict vegetarian diet. Accompanying his daily regimen of vitamins and supplements, though, was a most unusual practice.

"One night when Joe Don was visiting with us, after his return from India," recalls Hawkins, "he asks my wife for a large glass before going to bed. She tells him there are some cups in the bathroom upstairs. 'No,' he says, 'I need a large glass. I drink my urine.' Well, she comes running into the room flabbergasted, 'Joe Don drinks his urine!' So, I go to the foot of the stairs and call up to Joe Don. 'Joe Don, do you drink your own urine?' He says, 'Yeah.' He said he'd read where it produced antibodies. So, I ask him, 'Joe Don would you drink my urine?' He said, 'It'd gag a maggot.'"

In this day of the individualist-athlete, the image-is-everything star, would a maverick like Looney be embraced by today's NFL?

"Yes," says Clark, currently at work on a screenplay of his Looney biography for Hollywood. "But today's athlete gets together with his marketing people and discusses image position, attitude, camera poses and so forth. Joe Don never would have been comfortable with that. If it didn't come from the heart, it simply didn't happen."

Says Taylor: "He was way ahead of his time. As an athlete, things were different back then. You didn't stand up for yourself. If a coach kicked you in the leg, you just hung your head and went back to work. But not with Looney. And not with today's athletes either. I would say that Joe Don would, under today's circumstances, reach what everybody thought his potential was worth."

There were just a dozen or so people at Joe Don Looney's funeral in September of 1988. Hawkins was the only former NFL player to attend. Looney's death was the result of a high-speed motorcycle accident not far from his home, a geodesic dome structure that he himself had helped build just south of Alpine, Texas. He was 45.

"It was peace of mind he was looking for, and that I believe he found," says Hawkins. "He was one of the happiest people I've ever known. When he kicked the drugs and all, he just went a thousand percent the other way. He wouldn't drink a Coca-Cola."

In a 1966 interview with Looney at the Washington Redskins' training camp, Liston obtained an insightful quote from the then-24-year-old running back: "'Every man ought to think for himself. Each person ought to march to the beat of a different drum. I'm a loner, always have been, and nobody likes the man who stands alone. People think that as long as you do what the other guy does, a crowd makes it right. But it doesn't. You have to do what you think is right. Yet going along with the crowd creeps up on you.

"'The dove flies with crows and thinks he's black.'" ■

Dynamic Tension

In effect, it was a case of divergent personalities of two dynamic people running head on. The relationship between Oklahoma head coach Bud Wilkinson and Joe Don Looney virtually simmered from the first day of Looney's arrival on campus.

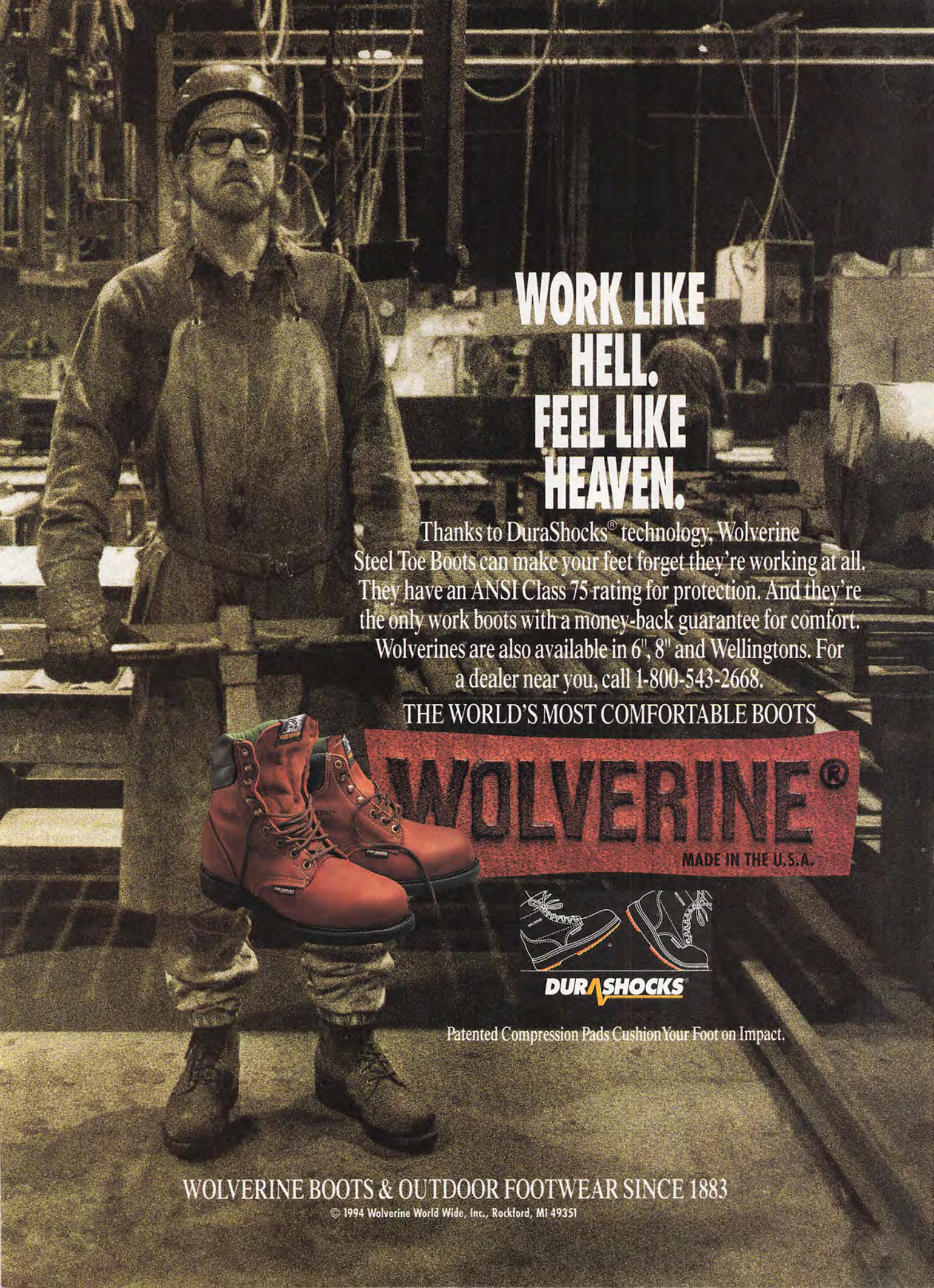
It was reputed that Wilkinson, a stern disciplinarian and a progenitor of the belief that athletes should be seen but not outspoken, was uncertain how to handle the individualist Looney.

Looney, who deplored hypocrisy in any form, felt Wilkinson was employing a hidden agenda with the team in regard to his (Wilkinson's) intentions to run for a U.S. Senate seat, a decision that would greatly affect the fortunes of not only Wilkinson but scores of Sooner players. In typically forthright fashion, Looney was said to have publicly embarrassed the OU mentor on one occasion, directly confronting Wilkinson in a room full of people about the coach's ambiguity on the matter. A red-faced Wilkinson diplomatically responded, but the rift between the two was sealed.

A third of the way through his senior season at Oklahoma, in 1963, Looney was dismissed from the Sooners squad.

Disciplinary reasons, in particular an altercation with a fifth-year senior assistant during run-throughs in a Thursday practice, were cited when Wilkinson's decision to drop his unpredictable star running back was announced.

For years, Wilkinson would be hounded by the press, who never let the Looney matter die.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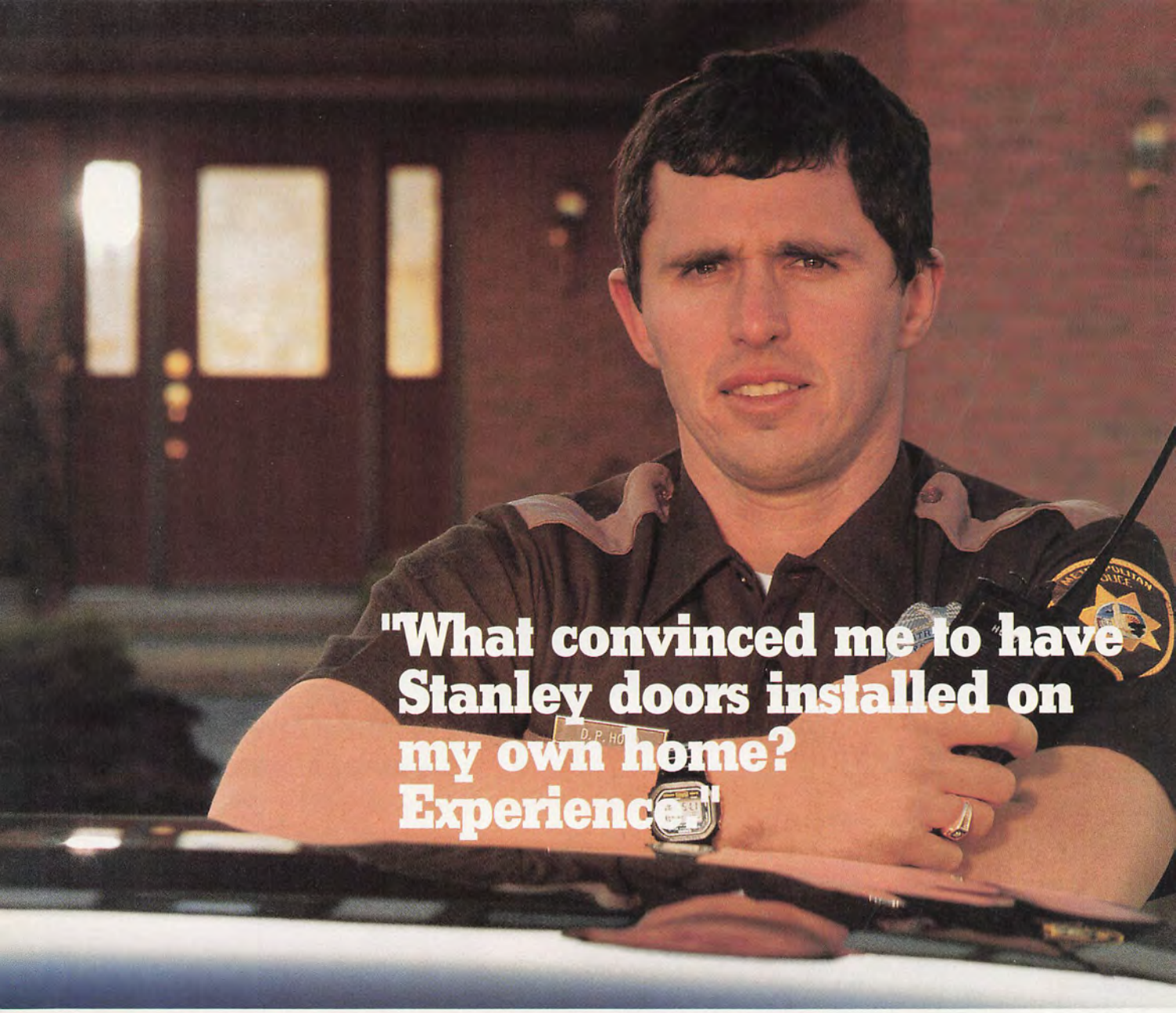

"During my 16-year career as a policeman, I've had to kick down a lot of doors. And, as big as I am, they pretty much all went down easily. On one occasion, however, a door withstood all the battering I could give it and wouldn't go down. It was a Stanley steel entry door."

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Dave Hood, Police Officer

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THE TEAMS

The Vince Lombardi Trophy. The Super Bowl Ring. Only one team earns the right to raise their fingers in celebration.

Dan Marino has come close but has never raised the digit of a champion. Steve Young has, but no doubt remembers the pain and effort of the struggle.

The Dallas Cowboys and the San Francisco 49ers have played in three successive NFC title games (many fans refer to them as the *real* Super Bowls).

In January 1996, it will likely be four. The two best franchises show no signs of weakening.

DAVID RESTON

DAVID GRAHAM

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Have you ever seen a grown man cry?

49ers Over Cowboys In Championship Rematch

The rivalry continues. The Dallas Cowboys vs. the San Francisco 49ers. The NFL's two best teams will again play the most important game of the year two weeks before the Super Bowl.

Sooner or later, the AFC will send a worthy representative to the Super Bowl to face the NFL elite.

It will be later, not sooner.

As *Athlon* sees the upcoming season (peeping over and around all the unsigned free agents as of late April), the outcome will be the same: San Francisco will go to Tempe, Ariz., for the formality of brushing aside the sacrificial lamb from the AFC. For those of you keeping score, *Athlon* has correctly predicted the last two Super Bowl champions: the aforementioned Cowboys and 49ers.

Steve Young, Jerry Rice and company form an offensive machine. The defense, featuring Super Bowl three-peater Ken Norton at linebacker, is rock-solid.

Arizona and New Orleans are up-and-coming teams in the NFC. Minnesota will edge Chicago in yet another tight race among three teams in the old black-and-blue division.

Washington should improve. Detroit and the Rams will flounder, and Carolina will not be as bad as expansion teams are supposed to be.

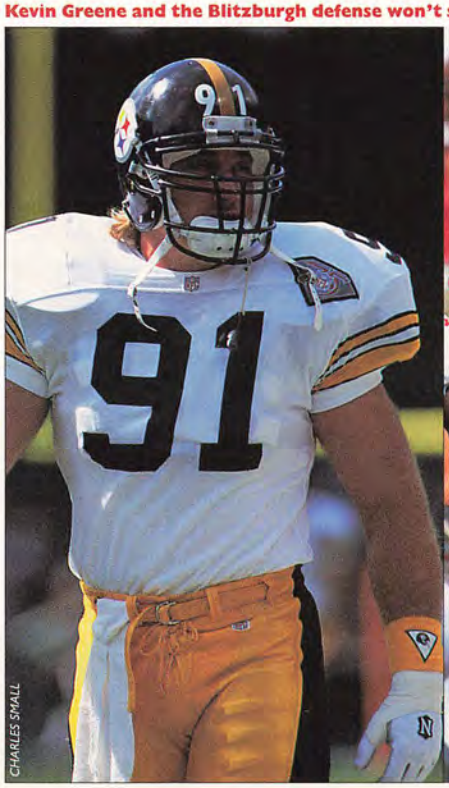
The Denver Broncos made the most noise in the free agent market this off-season, completely rebuilding the defensive line after signing a new receiving corps for John Elway a year ago. The organization seems committed to winning Elway that elusive Super Bowl title.

Two problems: the Pittsburgh Steelers and the New England Patriots. Bill Parcells is building something special in Foxboro, but his troops are a year away from breaking the NFC hold on championships.

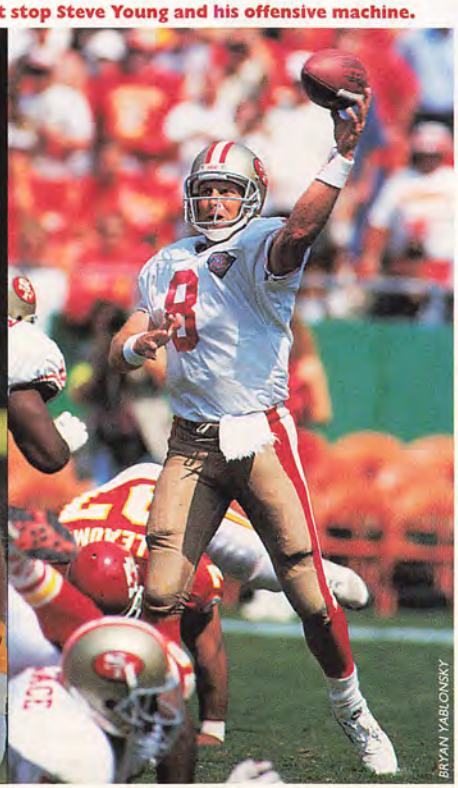
Blitzburgh is still the word in the Steel city. The Steel Curtain defense is strong enough to win the AFC but no match for the Niners.

Cleveland, Miami and Kansas City round out the playoff teams as Buffalo continues its slide. San Diego must settle for a one-year run and come back in 1996. The Colts will be the surprise team in the conference. ■

Kevin Greene and the Blitzburgh defense won't stop Steve Young and his offensive machine.



CHARLES SMALL



BRYAN YABLONSKY

ATHLON NFL FORECAST

NFC

EAST

1. DALLAS
2. ARIZONA*
3. NEW YORK
4. PHILADELPHIA
5. WASHINGTON

CENTRAL

1. MINNESOTA
2. CHICAGO*
3. GREEN BAY
4. TAMPA BAY
5. DETROIT

WEST

1. SAN FRANCISCO
2. NEW ORLEANS*
3. ATLANTA
4. ST. LOUIS
5. CAROLINA

AFC

EAST

1. NEW ENGLAND
2. MIAMI*
3. BUFFALO
4. INDIANAPOLIS
5. NEW YORK

CENTRAL

1. PITTSBURGH
2. CLEVELAND*
3. CINCINNATI
4. HOUSTON
5. JACKSONVILLE

WEST

1. DENVER
2. KANSAS CITY*
3. SAN DIEGO
4. LOS ANGELES
5. SEATTLE

* Wild Card

NFC CHAMPIONSHIP
San Francisco over Dallas

AFC CHAMPIONSHIP
Pittsburgh over New England

SUPER BOWL XXX
San Francisco over Pittsburgh

SAN FRANCISCO

49ers

They're good. Real good. Like Da Vinci was good at painting. Last season, the San Francisco 49ers set an offensive standard to gawk at. They averaged nearly 32 points a game during the regular season, scoring 50 points once, over 40 four more times, and over 30 five more. They scored 49 points while crushing the San Diego Chargers in the Super Bowl.

"This is probably the best offense people will see in their lifetimes," said guard Jesse Sapolu after the Super Bowl.

Steve Young, Jerry Rice, Brent Jones, John Taylor, Ricky Watters (no longer a 49er) . . . the list goes on. Still, lost again in the offensive glare, as it had been during the Joe Montana years, was the fact that the 49ers were in a position to become the first team to win five Super Bowls because of their defense.

LAYNE MURDOCH

JERRY RICE

The offense has been relatively intact over the past three seasons, but it was only last year that, with an upgraded defense featuring Tim McDonald, Ken Norton Jr., rookie Bryant Young and, most notably, Deion Sanders, the 49ers were finally able to beat the Dallas Cowboys in the playoffs, the first time since 1981.

Team management had realized as much before the beginning of last season, using all manner of arithmetic wizardry to bring in top-flight names and still stay under the salary cap.

It's good to be the king, but now everyone would dearly like the king to die at their hands. As for the 49ers, they've been put in the difficult position of not having to achieve but to maintain. Last season, they had to prove they could beat the Cowboys, but what do they have to prove this year? The answer to that question, plus 49ers president Carmen Policy's magic calculator, probably will hold the key for San Francisco this season.

QUARTERBACKS

Last year at this time, Young was still living under Montana's legacy in San Francisco. Now, after a Super Bowl victory, Young's own legacy is coming into focus. If he were to retire before the new season starts, you might even make a strong case that he belongs in the Hall of Fame.

Young has won four straight passing championships, something no other quarterback has done more than twice. He's led his team to three straight NFC championship games and one Super Bowl championship in which he threw a record six touchdown passes. He's also established himself as the greatest running quarterback ever.

In the event Young goes down, Elvis Grbac, whom the 49ers believe they stole in the eighth round a few years ago, will be the backup. Grbac is big and has a strong arm, and the 49ers believe he can also fit in.

RUNNING BACKS

It was an interesting few years for Watters on the 49ers, but he's gone. As an unrestricted free agent, Philadelphia offered him a magnificent contract, $6.9 million over three years, and San Francisco chose not to match it. Now attention will be focused on former Detroit Lion Derrick Moore, who was procured for a fifth-round draft choice.

The emergence of fullback William Floyd is a continuing story as well. Floyd, who played basically half a season, was so impressive that the usually stoic 49ers coach, George Seifert, went so far as to say he could be one of the greatest fullbacks of all time.

RECEIVERS

Every season, Rice proves that he is the greatest receiver ever to play the game. Last year's mound of evidence: a career-high 112 catches for a league-leading 1,499 yards, 13 touchdowns and several records.

What isn't so sure is who will line up on the other side of the line. Taylor caught 41 passes in'94 but has been injury-riddled over the past few seasons. The 49ers liked Ed McCaffrey but lost him to free agency. If Taylor can come back healthy, there's no problem. If not, rookie J.J. Stokes of UCLA, who was acquired as the result of a draft-day

STEVE WOLTMANN

STEVE YOUNG

trade with Cleveland, could be thrust into duty immediately.

Tight end Jones, a clutch receiver, went to the Pro Bowl last season and figures to make a strong case again this year.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

For all their grace and precision, the 49ers offense really didn't start to click until the big guns upfront got healthy. Or have you forgotten the 40–8 humiliation San Francisco suffered at home against Philadelphia? By midseason, the only healthy projected starter on the line was then-35-year-old center Bart Oates, brought in as a free agent last year.

Steve Wallace and Harris Barton are probably the best pair of tackles in football and have been instrumental in Young's success. However, with Kirk Scrafford of Denver available as an unrestricted free agent, the 49ers grabbed him with a five-year, $5.65 million contract.

Jesse Sapolu moved from center to guard and showed no signs of difficulty in the transition. Ralph Tamm was supposed to fill Guy McIntyre's vacated guard spot, but, like just about everyone else on the line, he ended up on the injured list. Derrick Deese closed the season in the spot, but it figures to be open at the start of camp.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

For all the headlines made by big-name free-agent signings, perhaps the most significant gains came in this area with the development of two young tackles: then-second-year man Dana Stubblefield and Bryant Young. Stubblefield, who had been named Rookie Defensive Player of the Year, avoided any semblance of a sophomore jinx by recording 39 tackles and leading the team in sacks with 8½. Young had 49 tackles and six sacks.

The play of Stubblefield and Young made up for inconsistent performances by defensive ends Dennis Brown and Rickey Jackson, who recorded 6½ sacks between them. With the middle secured, the 49ers may look for better play outside.

LINEBACKERS

There was a wholesale overhaul at linebacker before last season, with free agent Norton and Gary Plummer signing, and rookie Lee Woodall coming on strong to win a starting outside spot.

Norton led the team in tackles with 92, but some said he wasn't the playmaker he had been with the Cowboys. There may have been a feeling-out period for Norton, who had a strong second half of the season while the 49ers' defense got tougher. Plummer, 35, tallied 66 tackles and a sack. The question is when nine years of NFL service will start to wear on him.

DANA STUBBLEFIELD

LARRY KINKER

No Living Under Walsh's Shadow for Seifert

So there's this guy who works for the San Francisco 49ers and has achieved great things but has spent much of his recent career living under another man's shadow. No, this isn't the 67,495th beginning to a Steve Young-Joe Montana story. This is about George Seifert.

All Seifert has done since taking over for Bill Walsh in 1989 is win two Super Bowls and put his team in position to win one every year. The 49ers have continued to win at least 10 games a year, every year, a streak that began in the early 1980s.

And what does Seifert get for this? He is still referred to, years later, as Walsh's successor. There are still those who say that Seifert is simply the caretaker for what Walsh created. Anyone who believes that should look at what happened to UCLA basketball after legendary coach John Wooden left.

Seifert is his own man. The problem is he doesn't care to sell that to anyone. So what usually happens is someone else steals the headlines. Which is fine, of course. Players do win games, but last season the football world became so enamored with offensive coordinator Mike Shanahan that there was talk owner Eddie DeBartolo might ask Seifert to take a front-office job so the 49ers could keep Shanahan as head coach. This to a man who has won 77.6 percent of his games.

Seifert simply went about his business and won another Super Bowl. It couldn't have been as easy as it looked to incorporate so many big-name, big-ego free agents into the 49ers' scheme. But Seifert did it.

In the end, none of this was lost on 49ers management, which bade farewell to Shanahan (now the coach of the Denver Broncos) and gave Seifert a contract extension. That speaks volumes.

Time is on the side of Woodall, a sixth-round pick, to grab a starting position. He wasn't spectacular (64 tackles), but with Norton and Plummer to teach him, Woodall may be a real find.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Quite simply, Deion Sanders proved to be perhaps the most dominating cornerback ever. Sanders, who basically cuts off one side of the field from an opponent, not only had six interceptions (he scored on three) last year, but returned them for 303 yards, an average of 50.5. The two-sport superstar likely will not resign. His replacement is ex-Ram free-agent signee Marquez Pope.

Eric Davis, who was thrown at constantly by opposing quarterbacks, had another solid year, recording a career-high 73 tackles and three interceptions in the playoffs.

McDonald, in his second year with the

How the best receiver in the game stays open.

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team, continued to be one of the best safeties in the league. Surprisingly, Merton Hanks proved to be one of the best also. Hanks, who had been playing out of position at corner before Sanders arrived, moved to safety and was second on the team in tackles with 79.

KICKING GAME

Punter Klaus Wilmsmeyer, who had a solid net average of nearly 36 yards, was lost to free agency. As yet, there is no replacement. Kicker Doug Brien stepped in as a rookie and smoothed what had been a shaky kicking game. Brien made 15-of-20 field-goal attempts, including five-of-eight from 40-49 yards. Free agency also claimed the team's top return man, Dexter Carter.

49ERS ALL-TIME TEAM

Offense

WR	Jerry Rice (1985-)
TE	Brent Jones (1987-)
T	Leo Nomellini (1950-63)
G	Guy McIntyre (1984-93)
C	Forrest Blue (1968-74)
G	Bruno Banducci (1946-54)
T	Bob St. Clair (1953-64)
WR	Billy Wilson (1951-60)
QB	Joe Montana (1979-92)
RB	Hugh McElhenny (1952-60)
RB	Joe Perry (1948-60, 1963)
K	Ray Wersching (1977-87)

Defense

DE	Cedrick Hardman (1970-79)
DT	Charlie Krueger (1959-73)
DT	Michael Carter (1984-92)
DE	Tommy Hart (1968-77)
LB	Dave Wilcox (1964-74)
LB	Charles Haley (1986-91)
LB	Matt Hazeltine (1955-68)
CB	Kermit Alexander (1963-69)
S	Jimmy Johnson (1961-76)
S	Ronnie Lott (1981-90)
CB	Abe Woodson (1958-64)
P	Tommy Davis (1959-69)

Special Teams - Abe Woodson (1958-64)

BUILDING A WINNER

There is everything here for another champion. It's just a matter of keeping it together, which means the season probably will be won or lost — and we're talking Super Bowls here — before the first kickoff and by the wits of Policy and the wallet of owner Eddie DeBartolo Jr.

If the 49ers can keep key players on the roster and under the cap — Sanders is concern No. 1 — there's no reason not to expect Steve Young to do another lap or two around Candlestick next January. If the team does lose players, it's deep and talented enough to survive and prosper. ■

ROSTER

HEAD COACH: George Seifert (NFL Record: 84-24)
1994 RECORD: 13-3, 1st NFC West

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	EXP.	COLLEGE
77	Barnett, Oliver	DE	6-3	285	5	Kentucky
79	Barton, Harris	T	6-4	286	8	N.C.
4	Brien, Doug	K	5-11	177	1	California
96	Brown, Dennis	DE	6-4	290	5	Washington
86	Carolan, Brett	TE	6-3	241	1	Wash. St
	Collins, Shane	DE	6-3	267	3	Ariz. State
67	Dalman, Chris	G-C	6-3	285	2	Stanford
25	Davis, Eric	CB	5-11	178	5	Jacksonville St.
63	Deese, Derrick	G	6-3	270	3	USC
33	Dodge, Dedrick	S	6-2	184	3	Fla. State
22	Drakeford, Tyronne	CB	5-9	185	1	Va. Tech
40	Floyd, William	FB	6-1	242	1	Fla. State
18	Grbac, Elvis	QB	6-5	232	2	Michigan
36	Hanks, Merton	S	6-2	185	4	Iowa
84	Jones, Brent	TE	6-4	230	8	Santa Clara
58	Kelly, Todd	DE	6-2	259	2	Tennessee
20	Loville, Derek	RB	5-10	205	3	Oregon
46	McDonald, Tim	S	6-2	215	8	USC
69	Milstead, Rod	G	6-2	290	3	Dela. St.
55	Mitchell, Kevin	LB	6-1	260	1	Syracuse
	Moore, Derrick	RB	6-1	227	3	NE St. OK
51	Norton, Ken Jr.	LB	6-2	241	7	UCLA
66	Oates, Bart	C	6-3	278	10	BYU
53	Peterson, Anthony	LB	6-0	223	1	Notre Dame
50	Plummer, Gary	LB	6-2	247	9	California
	Pope, Marquez	S	5-10	193	3	Fresno St.
85	Popson, Ted	TE	6-4	250	1	Portland St.
80	Rice, Jerry	WR	6-2	200	10	Miss. V. St.
61	Sapolu, Jesse	G	6-4	278	12	Hawaii
	Scrafford, Kirk	T	6-6	265	5	Montana
88	Singleton, Nate	WR	5-11	190	3	Grambling
94	Stubblefield, Dana	DT	6-2	302	2	Kansas
64	Tamm, Ralph	G	6-4	280	7	W. Chester
82	Taylor, John	WR	6-1	185	9	Dela. St.
5	Thompson, Tommy	P	5-10	192	1	Oregon
27	Walker, Adam	RB	6-1	210	2	Pittsburgh
74	Wallace, Steve	T	6-5	280	9	Auburn
92	Wilson, Troy	DE	6-4	250	2	Pitt. St.
54	Woodall, Lee	LB	6-0	220	1	W. Chester
97	Young, Bryant	DT	6-2	276	1	Notre Dame
8	Young, Steve	QB	6-2	205	10	BYU

1995 DRAFT PICKS

ROUND	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	Stokes, J.J.	WR	6-4	214	UCLA
4	Hanshaw, Tim	G	6-5	285	BYU
5	Ellison, O'Mar	WR	6-1	209	Fla. State
6	Armstrong, Antonio	DE	6-4	225	Texas A&M
7	Coleman, Herb	DE	6-4	285	Trinity (Ill.)

1994 WRAP-UP

TEAM DATA

Total Offense:	378.8 yards per game
Total Defense:	302.4 yards per game
Scoring Offense:	31.6 points per game
Scoring Defense:	18.5 points per game

LEADERS

Passing:	Steve Young, 324-461-3969-10, 35TDs
Rushing:	Ricky Watters, 239 att., 877 yds., 6 TDs
Receiving:	Jerry Rice, 112 rec., 1499 yds., 13 TDS
Kicking:	Doug Brien, 15-20 FGs, 60-62 XP, 105 points
Punting:	Klaus Wilmsmeyer, 54 punts, 41.4 avg.
Kickoff Returns:	Dexter Carter, 48 ret., 23.0 avg., 1 TD
Punt Returns:	Dexter Carter, 38 ret., 8.4 avg.
Tackles:	Ken Norton Jr., 92, 79 solo
Sacks:	Dana Stubblefield, 8.5
Interceptions:	Merton Hanks, 7 for 93 yds.

RESULTS

L.A. Raiders	44-14	at New Orleans	35-14
at Kansas City	17-24	Atlanta	50-14
at L.A. Rams	34-19	at San Diego	38-15
New Orleans	24-13	Denver	42-19
Philadelphia	8-40	at Minnesota	14-21
at Detroit	27-21	**Playoffs**	
at Atlanta	42-3	Chicago	44-15
Tampa Bay	41-16	Dallas	38-28
at Washington	37-22	**Super Bowl**	
Dallas	21-14	San Diego	49-26
L.A. Rams	31-27		

PROJECTED STARTING LINEUP

OFFENSE

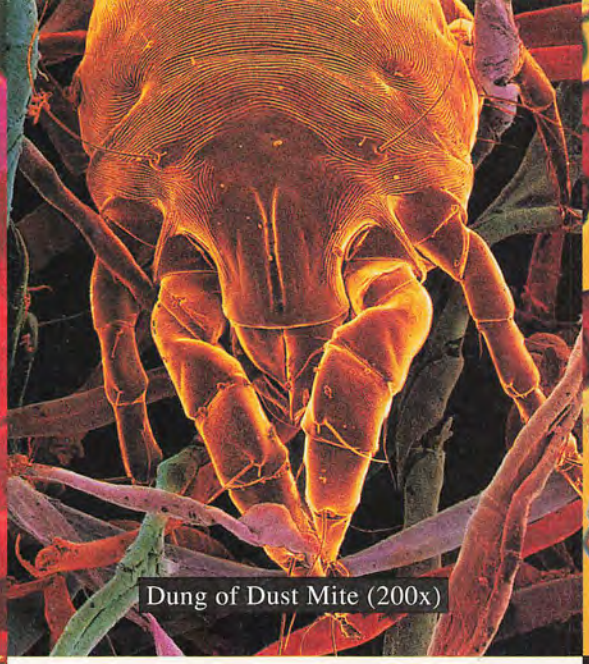
	J.J. STOKES	SE
74	STEVE WALLACE	LT
61	JESSE SAPOLU	LG
66	BART OATES	C
63	DERRICK DEESE	RG
79	HARRIS BARTON	RT
84	BRENT JONES	TE
80	JERRY RICE	FL
8	STEVE YOUNG	QB
40	WILLIAM FLOYD	FB
	DERRICK MOORE	RB
4	DOUG BRIEN	K

DEFENSE

96	DENNIS BROWN	LE
97	BRYANT YOUNG	LT
94	DANA STUBBLEFIELD	RT
	SHANE COLLINS	RE
54	LEE WOODALL	LB
50	GARY PLUMMER	LB
51	KEN NORTON JR.	LB
25	ERIC DAVIS	LC
36	MERTON HANKS	RC
46	TIM McDONALD	SS
	MARQUEZ POPE	FS
5	TOMMY THOMPSON	P

Personnel changes made after April 22 may not be reflected.

Information provided by Rodney Knox, Director of Public Relations.



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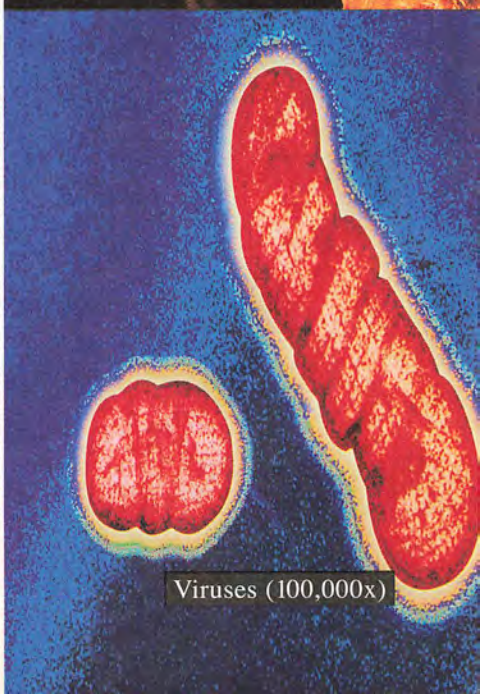


NEW ORLEANS

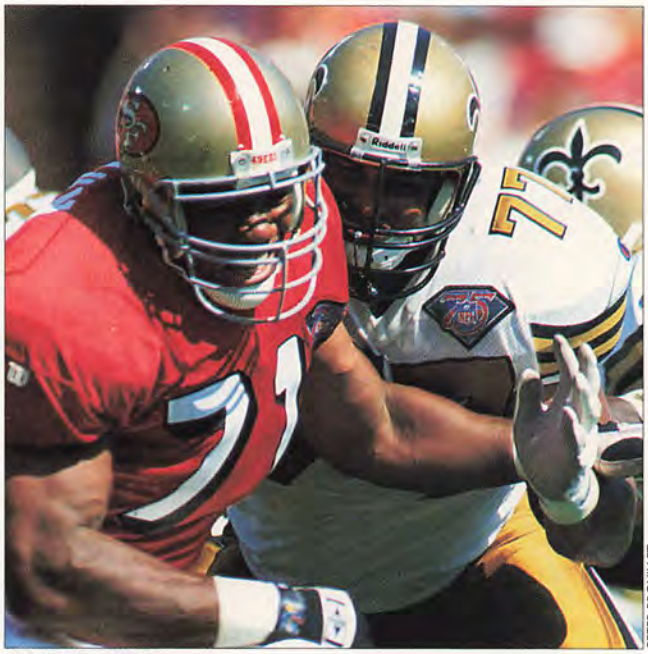
SAINTS

Times have changed in the Big Easy, where the offense is in the air and the defense is to be found somewhere in the dumpster.

Who ever said change was good?

The New Orleans Saints made the playoffs the first three seasons of the 1990s by combining a stifling defense, led by the National Football League's best linebacking corps, with a run-oriented, ball-control offense. But, by 1993, the team seemed collectively to age overnight. The defense deteriorated and the offense could no longer control the ball.

Last season, the offense got a shot in the arm from a most unlikely source: quarterback Jim Everett had bolted from the Los Angeles Rams — a happy occasion for both parties — and revived his career. With Everett at the controls, the Saints were throwing the ball!



PETER BROUILLET

WILLIAM ROAF

Unfortunately, opponents had their way with the once-proud New Orleans defense. The Saints finished 7–9 and were outscored 407–348. They were outrushed by more than 400 yards. Once solid on special teams, the Saints gave up more than 12 yards per punt return. They ended the season with their offense actually rated higher (sixth) than their defense (12th) in the NFC.

"I feel pretty good about where we stand offensively," coach Jim Mora says. "We need to focus our attention on the defensive side of the ball. I could point to all three areas: secondary, linebackers and defensive line."

Mora and company enter 1995 looking to strike a balance, though they'd settle for their defense just striking anybody.

QUARTERBACKS

For whatever reason, Everett was a new man in New Orleans. His technique was polished and confident. Everett set a team record with 3,855 passing yards, completing 346 of 540 attempts (64.1 percent) for 22 touchdowns and 18 interceptions.

You wouldn't have guessed it from his final years in Los Angeles, but Everett is inching his way up several NFL all-time passing lists. He's now thrown for 3,000 or more yards in six seasons, tying Dan Fouts for seventh-most in league history.

Former Pro Bowler Wade Wilson backs up Everett and is more than capable. Wilson completed 71 percent of his passes. Ex-Cardinal Timm Rosenbach, out of football the last two years, is an intriguing addition.

RUNNING BACKS

What are things coming to when a Jim Mora team gets outrushed 1,758 yards to 1,336? The Saints have two fine young running backs in Mario Bates (151 carries for 579 yards) and Derek Brown (146 for 489), but they will have to develop quickly for the Saints' running game to get back on track.

Look for Bates to take even more of the load in 1995. At 6–1, 217 pounds, Bates can take the pounding that a Mora-style running game demands of its backs.

With Brad Muster missing a lot of time due to hamstring problems, the fullback position fell to Lorenzo Neal, who did a solid job blocking while gaining 90 yards on 30 carries.

RECEIVERS

Six Saints had 38 or more receptions. Quinn Early topped the charts with 82 catches for 894 yards, and Michael Haynes, a big-money free agent wrested from Atlanta, had 77 for 985 yards and 12 touchdowns.

But the Saints must have been ecstatic to see the rapid development of Torrance Small, who had caught a total of 39 passes in his first two years in the league. Small hauled in 49 passes in 1994 and proved to be a formidable deep threat, averaging 14.7 yards a catch.

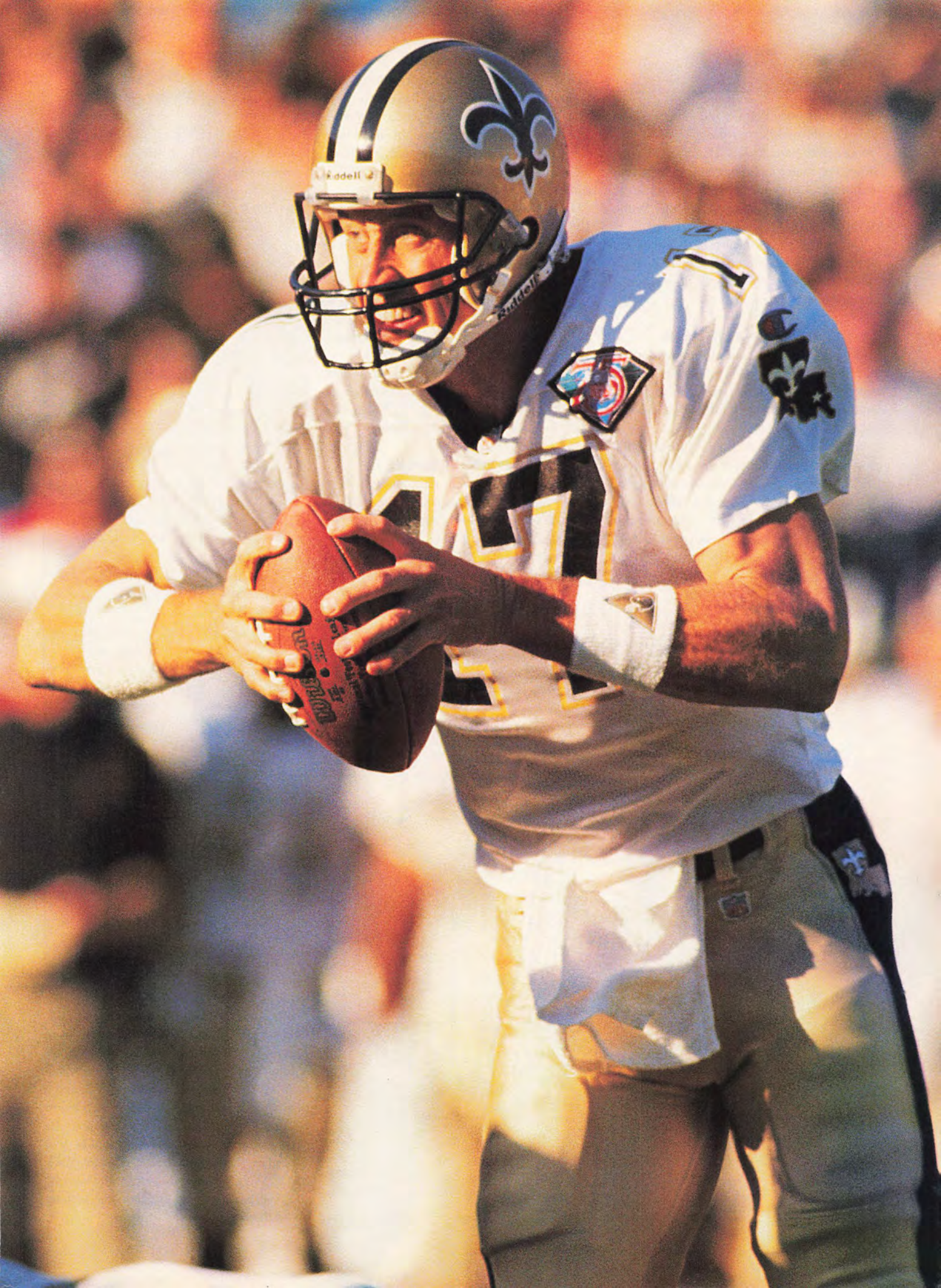
The Saints have added another facet to their offense, a tight end. Irv Smith caught 41 passes, the most by any Saints tight end since 1985.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Third-year tackle William Roaf has become recognized as one of the best in the business and was named to the 1994 Pro

LAYNE MURDOCH

JIM EVERETT



Bowl. He's joined on the left side by guard Jim Dombrowski, who has played in 122 consecutive games. Jeff Uhlenhake nailed down the center job after coming over from the Miami Dolphins. Chris Port starts at the other guard spot alongside tackle Willie Williams.

The Saints have a nice mix of youth and experience here, but it's not a necessarily huge group. Roaf is the only one who tips the scales at 300 pounds.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Wayne Martin continues to impress at left end in the Saints' 3–4 defense. Martin recorded 73 tackles and 10 sacks last year and has now compiled double-digit sack totals in two of the last three seasons.

Frank Warren moved from right end to the nose tackle position and managed to get four sacks but had only 25 stops. Warren's move was necessitated by rookie Joe Johnson, the team's No. 1 draft pick in 1994. Johnson moved into the right end spot and had 44 tackles and four sacks. He should develop even more this year.

LINEBACKERS

Once the pride of this franchise, the Saints' linebacking corps has been torn asunder by free agency. Renaldo Turnbull, who had been filling some of the void, seemed to take a step backward last year, recording just 6½ sacks (he had 13 in 1993) and making 54 tackles.

Darion Conner, who recorded a team-high 10½ sacks from the other outside spot, and inside linebacker Sam Mills both left New Orleans via free agency. And James Williams, who would have taken over for Mills, is now a Jacksonville Jaguar. Rookie Winfred Tubbs, who ended the season starting inside, will probably start there again. Tubbs recorded 54 tackles last season.

Either Rufus Porter, a free-agent signee from Seattle, or Ernest Dixon will fill the vacancy on the outside. Who will man the other inside spot is anybody's guess.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Probably no area went through more of a makeover than the secondary. Free safety Vince Buck, the only recognizable name in last year's unit, must have felt like asking for IDs.

Opponents threw for more than 3,811 yards and 28 touchdowns against the Saints. Still, the new players showed promise. Cornerback Jimmy Spencer led the team in interceptions with five and had 63 tackles. Vinnie Clark, claimed off waivers in late November, started the last four games at the other corner and made 21 tackles and an interception, but he's now a Jacksonville Jaguar. Strong safety Sean Lumpkin was second on the team in tackles with 99. Buck had 88. That's a lot of tackles for the last line of defense, which should tell you something about the defense ahead of them.

ERIC ALLEN

DIANE JOHNSON

Sweet Vindication For Everett

Quarterback Jim Everett went to New Orleans and more than picked up the pieces of a once-promising career. As a first-year Saint, he threw for almost 4,000 yards at a 64 percent completion rate.

But there was something more, a renewed swagger that had long been missing from his gait after too many poundings, by both opponents and fans, during his days as a Los Angeles Ram. The Saints gave Everett something new: They actually wanted him. And, by season's end, they were glad they had him.

"His contribution to this football team was above and beyond what I anticipated when we made the trade," says Saints coach Jim Mora. "Only because I didn't know what kind of person Jim is or how he prepared, how smart he is, what kind of leader he is, how positive he is."

There was an unmistakable air of optimism around Everett all last season. And, given an exceptional corps of receivers — Michael Haynes, Quinn Early, Torrance Small — and All-Pro tackle William Roaf to protect his blind side, it's no wonder Everett is looking ahead instead of back.

"I'm not going to look in the rear-view mirror," he says. "I like what I see on the road ahead for this football team."

Still, it was on the road that Everett had to take care of some personal business. He returned to Anaheim Stadium to play his old team and turned in a workmanlike performance (13-for-22, 161 yards and a touchdown) as the Saints won 31–15.

Everett probably won the game in the first quarter when he methodically took the Saints down the field on a 99-yard touchdown drive.

Just to make sure he knew they hadn't forgotten him, Rams fans cheered loudly for Everett just once, as he lay motionless on the ground with a foot injury. Nice. There were also banners welcoming Jim back, banners that read: "Don't Call Me Chris."

But, in the end, Everett won.

"Being 2–0 against (the Rams) this year, I can't really describe it," he said. "I was fired up. This was big. It's hard to describe the feeling I had."

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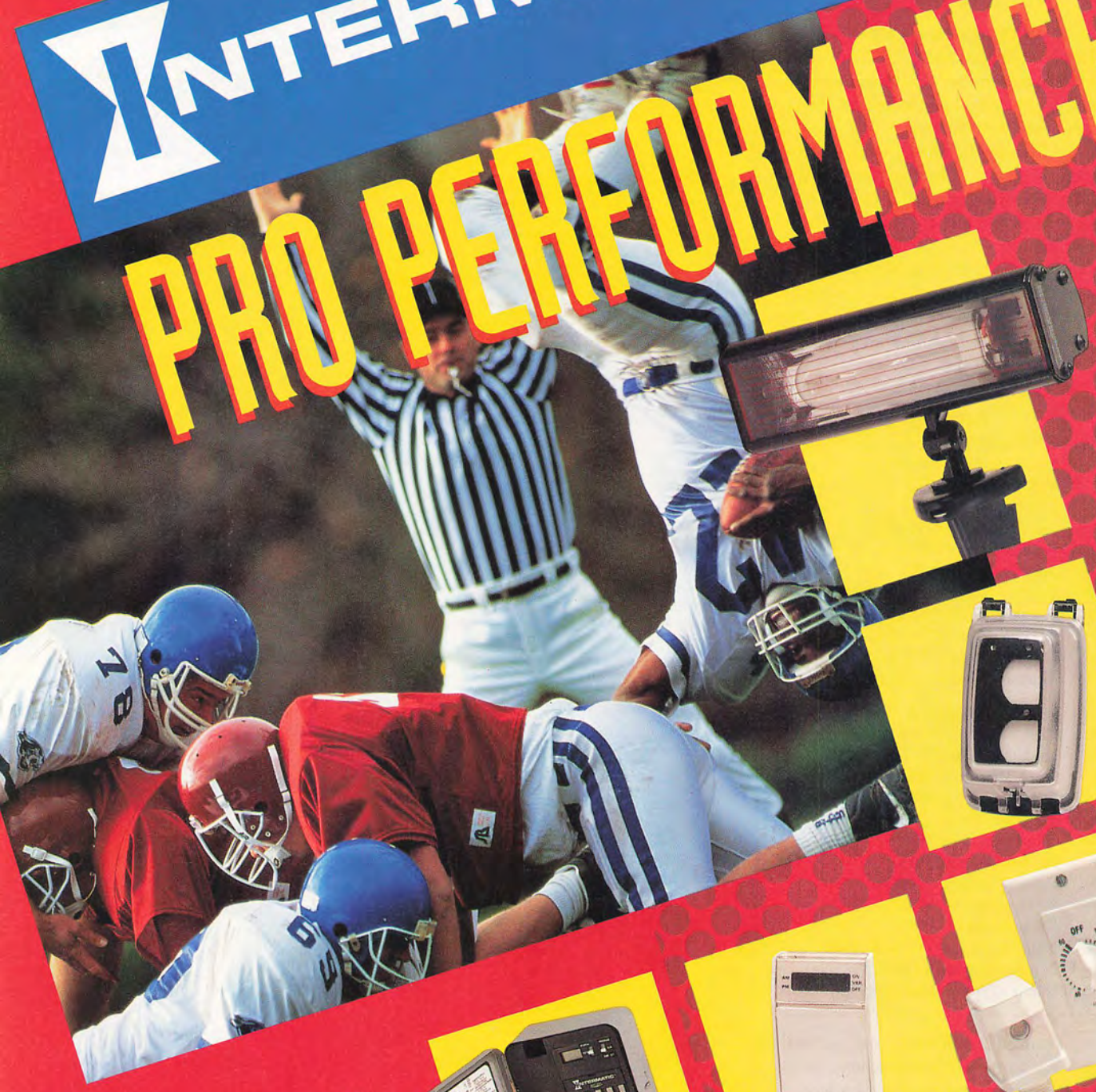

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Perennial all-pro Eric Allen, late of the Philadelphia Eagles, landed as a free agent in New Orleans and was signed to a five-year, $14 million contract. He will take over the corner position vacated by Clark.

KICKING GAME

Morten Andersen made 28 field goals, which was no surprise. What was surprising is that he missed 11, including all six attempts from 50 yards or more.

Punter Tommy Barnhardt took the free agency route to Carolina, but Klaus Wilmsmeyer, who compiled a 41.4-yard average with San Francisco, was acquired to replace him.

Without a doubt, the Saints' most impressive special teams performance was turned in by Tyrone Hughes, who, against the Rams, returned seven kicks for an NFL record 308 yards and two touchdowns. In all, Hughes enters his third season having set or tied 15 team and six NFL marks.

SAINTS ALL-TIME TEAM

Offense

WR	Eric Martin (1985-93)
TE	Hoby Brenner (1981-93)
T	William Roaf (1993-)
G	Jake Kupp (1967-75)
C	Joel Hilgenberg (1984-93)
G	Brad Edelman (1982-89)
T	Stan Brock (1980-92)
WR	Danny Abramowicz (1967-73)
QB	Archie Manning (1971-75, 1977-82)
RB	George Rogers (1981-84)
RB	Dalton Hilliard (1986-93)
K	Morten Andersen (1982-)

Defense

DE	Elois Grooms (1975-81)
DT	Jim Wilks (1981-93)
DE	Frank Warren (1981-89, 1991-93)
LB	Rickey Jackson (1981-93)
LB	Vaughan Johnson (1986-93)
LB	Sam Mills (1986-94)
LB	Pat Swilling (1986-92)
CB	Dave Waymer (1980-89)
S	Tommy Myers (1972-81)
S	Gene Atkins (1987-93)
CB	Maurice Spencer (1974-76, 1978)
P	Tommy Barnhardt (1987, 1989-94)

Special Teams - Tyrone Hughes (1993-)

BUILDING A WINNER

New Orleans needs to retool its defense; no one fears this unit anymore. It would seem the key, especially in a 3–4, would be to rebuild the linebacking corps and go from there. Turnbull needs help.

On the offensive side of the ball, the Saints need to nurture what they have begun, develop the receiving corps and bring along Mario Bates. ■

ROSTER

HEAD COACH: Jim Mora (NFL Record: 84–63)
1994 RECORD: 7–9, T 2nd NFC West

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	EXP.	COLLEGE
	Allen, Eric	CB	5–10	180	7	Ariz. St.
7	Andersen, Morten	K	6–2	221	13	Mich. St.
24	Bates, Mario	RB	6–1	217	1	Ariz.
52	Bavaro, David	LB	6–1	238	4	Syracuse
86	Botkin, Kirk	TE	6–3	245	1	Arkansas
21	Brown, Derek	RB	5–9	197	2	Nebraska
26	Buck, Vince	DB	6–0	198	5	C. St. (OH)
45	Byrd, Israel	CB	5–11	184	1	Utah St.
74	Carroll, Herman	DE	6–4	265	1	Miss. St.
71	Cooper, Richard	T	6–5	290	5	Tennessee
56	Dixon, Ernest	LB	6–1	250	1	So. Car.
72	Dombrowski, Jim	G	6–5	300	9	Virginia
32	Dunbar, Vaughn	RB	5–10	204	3	Indiana
89	Early, Quinn	WR	6–0	190	7	Iowa
17	Everett, Jim	QB	6–5	212	9	Purdue
91	Goff, Robert	DE-NT	6–3	280	7	Auburn
98	Hanna, Jim	NT	6–4	255	1	Louisville
52	Harvey, Richard	LB	6–1	242	5	Tulane
81	Haynes, Michael	WR	6–0	184	7	No. Ariz.
33	Hughes, Tyrone	CB	5–9	177	2	Nebraska
94	Johnson, Joe	DE	6–4	285	1	Louisville
80	Johnson, Tyrone	WR	5–11	171	1	Western St.
27	Jones, Selwyn	CB	6–0	185	3	Colo. St.
68	Kline, Alan	T	6–5	277	1	Ohio State
43	Legette, Tyrone	CB	5–9	177	3	Nebraska
46	Lumpkin, Sean	S	6–0	206	3	Minnesota
93	Martin, Wayne	DE	6–5	275	6	Arkansas
44	McCleskey, J.J.	S	5–7	177	1	Tennessee
67	McCollum, Andy	C-G	6–4	270	1	Toledo
88	Mitchell, Derrell	WR	5–9	190	1	Texas Tech
25	Muster, Brad	FB	6–4	235	7	Stanford
22	Neal, Lorenzo	FB	5–11	240	2	Fresno St.
36	Ned, Derrick	FB	6–1	220	2	Grambling
60	Novitsky, Craig	C-T	6–5	295	1	UCLA
13	Nussmeier, Doug	QB	6–3	211	1	Idaho
35	Pahukoa, Shane	S	6–2	202	1	Washington
70	Port, Chris	G-T	6–5	295	4	Duke
59	Porter, Rufus	LB	6–4	227	7	Southern
84	Rhem, Steve	WR	6–2	212	1	Minnesota
77	Roaf, William	T	6–5	300	2	La. Tech
3	Rosenbach, Timm	QB	6–1	215	4	Wash. St.
78	Roth, Tom	C-G	6–5	285	1	So. Ill.
83	Small, Torrance	WR	6–3	201	3	Alcorn St.
82	Smith, Irv	TE	6–3	246	2	Notre Dame
37	Spencer, Jimmy	CB	5–9	180	3	Florida
54	Tubbs, Winfred	LB	6–4	250	1	Texas
97	Turnbull, Renaldo	LB	6–4	250	5	W. Va.
62	Uhlenhake, Jeff	C	6–3	284	6	Ohio State
85	Walls, Wesley	TE	6–5	250	6	Mississippi
65	Williams, Willie	T	6–6	295	3	LSU
10	Wilmsmeyer, Klaus	P	6–1	210	3	Louisville
18	Wilson, Wade	QB	6–3	206	14	E. Tex. St.

1995 DRAFT PICKS

ROUND	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	Fields, Mark	LB	6-2	244	Wash. St.
2	Zellars, Ray	FB	5-11	236	Notre Dame
3	Verstegen, Mike	T	6-6	311	Wisconsin
4	Jeffries, Dameian	DE	6-4	277	Alabama
5	Strong, William	CB	5-10	191	N.C. St.
6	De Ramus, Lee	WR	6-0	191	Wisconsin
7	Davis, Travis	S	5-11	192	Notre Dame

1994 WRAP-UP

TEAM DATA

Total Offense:	323.9 yards per game
Total Defense:	348.1 yards per game
Scoring Offense:	21.8 points per game
Scoring Defense:	25.4 points per game

LEADERS

Passing:	Jim Everett, 346–540–3855–18, 22 TDs
Rushing:	Mario Bates, 151 att., 579 yds., 6 TDs
Receiving:	Michael Haynes, 77 rec., 985 yds., 5 TDs
Kicking:	Morten Andersen, 28–39 FGs, 32–32 XP, 116 points
Punting:	Tommy Barnhardt, 67 punts, 43.6 avg.
Kickoff Returns:	Tyrone Hughes, 63 ret., 24.7 avg.
Punt Returns:	Tyrone Hughes, 21 ret., 6.8 avg.
Tackles:	Sam Mills, 155, 115 solo
Sacks:	Darion Conner, 10.5
Interceptions:	Jimmy Spencer, 5 for 24 yds.

RESULTS

Kansas City	17–30	at Minnesota	20–21
Washington	24–38	Atlanta	33–32
at Tampa Bay	9–7	at L.A. Raiders	19–24
at San Francisco	13–24	San Francisco	14–35
N.Y. Giants	27–22	at L.A. Rams	31–15
at Chicago	7–17	at Atlanta	29–20
San Diego	22–36	Dallas	16–24
L.A. Rams	37–34	at Denver	30–28

PROJECTED STARTING LINEUP

OFFENSE

89	QUINN EARLY	WR
77	WILLIAM ROAF	LT
72	JIM DOMBROWSKI	LG
62	JEFF UHLENHAKE	C
70	CHRIS PORT	RG
71	RICHARD COOPER	RT
82	IRV SMITH	TE
81	MICHAEL HAYNES	WR
17	JIM EVERETT	QB
22	LORENZO NEAL	FB
24	MARIO BATES	HB
7	MORTEN ANDERSEN	K

DEFENSE

93	WAYNE MARTIN	LE
91	ROBERT GOFF	NT
94	JOE JOHNSON	RE
52	RICHARD HARVEY	LOLB
59	RUFUS PORTER	LILB
54	WINFRED TUBBS	RILB
97	RENALDO TURNBULL	ROLB
37	JIMMY SPENCER	LCB
	ERIC ALLEN	RCB
46	SEAN LUMPKIN	SS
26	VINCE BUCK	FS
10	KLAUS WILMSMEYER	P

Personnel changes made after April 22 may not be reflected.

Information provided by Rusty Kasmiersky, Director of Public Relations.

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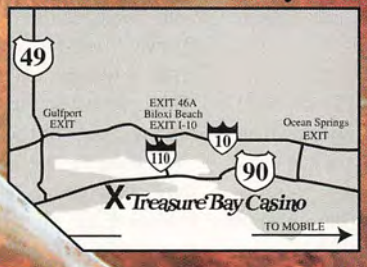

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ATLANTA FALCONS

How you look at the Atlanta Falcons' past and future depends on which way you tilt your head.

The Falcons led in 14 of the 16 games they played, held a fourth-quarter lead in 12 games and were ahead at the two-minute warning 11 times. But Atlanta managed to win just seven contests.

The Falcons had an explosive offense that gained 43 fewer yards per game than the San Francisco 49ers. But, although they scored 317 points, the Falcons gave up a whopping 385 (24 per game).

Atlanta blew four games on its opponent's final possession, including a 21–17 loss to Green Bay in which Packers quarterback Brett Favre turned a broken play into 4-yard scramble for the winning touchdown with 14 seconds remaining.

MITCHELL HADDAD

JEFF GEORGE

Had the Falcons managed to hold on in each of those games, they would have finished at 11–5 and everyone would be talking about the team's bright future. Instead, there are questions.

QUARTERBACKS

When Jeff George was acquired from Indianapolis in a trade, there were questions about his attitude and willingness to sacrifice for the good of the team. There was no question about his arm and should be none now, considering his performance in '94. George completed 61.5 percent of his passes for 3,734 yards while learning a completely new offensive system. He also seemed mature and durable, starting all 16 games despite a concussion in one game and a broken finger in another.

The Falcons have one of the league's best backups in Bobby Hebert, a Pro Bowl performer in 1993.

RUNNING BACKS

When Craig "Ironhead" Heyward was signed as a free agent in '94, he had rushed for just 882 yards over three seasons, and many believed his career was nearing an end. But Heyward collected 779 yards for the Falcons and posted a gaudy 4.3-yard rushing average. He scored seven touchdowns and caught 32 passes for 335 yards. If Heyward can stay in shape, a problem in the past, the Falcons will have a leg up on an exceptional running game.

However, the other leg in that equation, Erric Pegram, had a disappointing 1994. He missed three games due to injuries and carried the ball just 103 times for 358 yards. The season before, Pegram rushed for 1,185 yards on 292 attempts. If he can stay healthy, and if the Falcons can find an equitable way to utilize Pegram and Heyward, good things could result.

RECEIVERS

The Falcons lost Andre Rison to free agency. This will hurt but may not be as devastating to the Falcons as it would be to other teams, because Atlanta appears to be as deep as anyone at receiver.

Atlanta picked up Terance Mathis, undoubtedly *the* buy of the free-agent market last season. For $500,000 the Falcons got 111 catches from Mathis, 1,342 yards and 11 touchdowns. That's called a return on investment.

Veteran Ricky Sanders is solid (67 catches for 599 yards), and rookie Bert Emanuel from Rice was yet another find, with 46 catches for 649 yards and an exceptional 14.1-yards-per-catch average.

The icing on the cake is the landing of premier running back/receiver Eric Metcalf, who was dealt by Cleveland plus the Browns' first-round draft pick merely in exchange for Atlanta's No. 1 selection at the 10th position on the board. Metcalf will be at running back on obvious passing situations.

In addition, the Falcons also landed substantive wideouts J.J. Birden, formerly of Kansas City, plus Nate Lewis, late of the Bears. Metcalf and Birden loom as starters. Andre Who?

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

This will mark the first time since 1978 that tackle Mike Kenn will not be on the line

STEVE WOLTMANN

TERANCE MATHIS

Riddell
81

for the Falcons. A 17-year veteran, Kenn was a five-time Pro Bowler. His departure will provide a second chance for Lincoln Kennedy, the 335-pound third-year player out of Washington who started every game as a rookie but seemed to regress in his second year, starting only two.

If Kennedy works out, he'll join an offensive line that allowed just one sack per 17 pass plays, a team record.

Tackle Bob Whitfield finally came of age, claiming a starting spot and starting every game. Falcons guards Dave Richards and Mike Zandofsky did a good job in helping push Atlanta to the No. 7 spot in the league in total offense. Roman Fortin holds forth at center.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Over the past couple of years, the Falcons have tried to shore up the front line by signing big-name free agents like Pierce Holt and Chris Doleman, but it was second-year man Chuck Smith who was probably their most effective lineman.

Smith led the team in sacks with 11 and had 32 quarterback pressures. Holt, hampered by injuries in 1993, his first season with Atlanta, missed another four games last season but still managed 55 tackles.

The Falcons, who have consistently given up more yards passing than even their offense can produce, desperately want to pressure the quarterback. Doleman did have seven sacks but, for the most part, played less than inspired football, recording just 40 tackles, while missing two games with a foot injury. Moe Gardner had 88 tackles last year, but he's not a guy who's going to get into the backfield very often. Neither he nor Holt had a single sack.

LINEBACKERS

Jessie Tuggle hits. Over the past six years, he has averaged 194 tackles a year. Tuggle had 195 last year, including an 18-tackle performance against the Los Angeles Rams. He is the most dependable player on this Falcons team and has missed just one game over the past four seasons.

Clay Matthews is entering his 18th season and shows few signs of slowing down. Consider that Matthews recorded 100-plus tackles (115) for the ninth time in his career.

Ken Tippins was at the other linebacker position and did a solid job, recording 59 tackles. However, room must be made for Darryl Talley, a free-agent signee, who was a durable and consistent performer the past 11 seasons in Buffalo and is due to replace Tippins as a starter.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

No one is going to claim that Darnell Walker is the next Deion Sanders, but for someone put in the difficult situation of replacing the irreplaceable Sanders, Walker responded exceptionally, with 43 tackles and three interceptions which he returned for a Sanders-like 105 yards. Still, the Falcons gave up an NFC-worst 258.5 passing yards a game.

D.J. Johnson had 72 tackles and a team-high five interceptions, and free-agent safety Kevin Ross recorded a career-high 124 tackles, which looks nice on paper but means that a lot of opponents are getting deep into Falcons coverage.

Off-season acquisitions Terry Taylor

CHUCK SMITH

MICHAEL PONZONI

Kenn Could and Did

You won't see Mike Kenn in an Atlanta uniform this season, but his career has followed the ebb and flow of the Falcons over three decades.

How long has Kenn been around? When he started playing, Jimmy Carter was president. The first game he ever played was also the rookie debut for Earl Campbell, who has already been elected to the Hall of Fame. In that game, in which the Falcons beat the Oilers 20–14, June Jones played quarterback for Atlanta. Kenn closed out his career with Jones as his coach.

When he started in the league, the heaviest man on the Falcons offensive line was Dave Scott, who weighed 285 pounds. In Kenn's last year, he was by far the lightest guy on the line. How much did he weigh? A mere 285 pounds.

But Kenn, who weighed 260 pounds as a rookie, always disdained the bigger-is-better theory that has swept football of late. He would point to the relatively smaller lines of the San Francisco 49ers during the 1980s that thrived not because of brawn but because of quickness and technique.

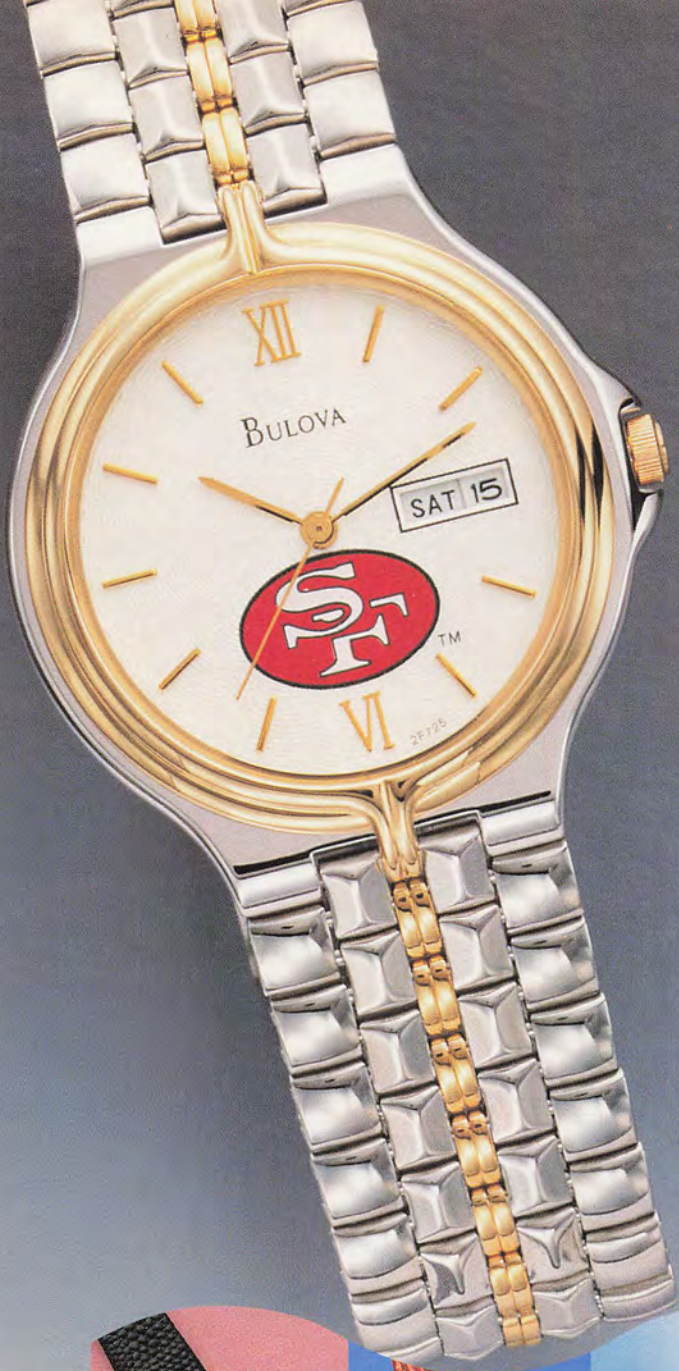
Kenn grew up in Illinois playing as a goalie in hockey and said that experience influenced the way he played football.

"When I'm pass blocking, I envision myself as a goalie. I let the guy attacking make the first move, then I react."

Kenn could do that because of superior quickness and technique. He was also durable, playing in 94 straight games from 1978 until 1984. During a 26-game span ending in 1981, he was not called for a single penalty.

A five-time Pro Bowler, he is the only member of the Falcons who played in all six of the team's playoff games. In fact, the Falcons made the playoffs in three of his first five seasons.

"We were the hot young team back then," Kenn once said. "We lost (in 1982) but it was like 'Oh well, we're going to be back'. Of course, that didn't happen. (The Falcons didn't make the playoffs again until 1992). I learned you only get so many of those shots, and you have to make the most of them."



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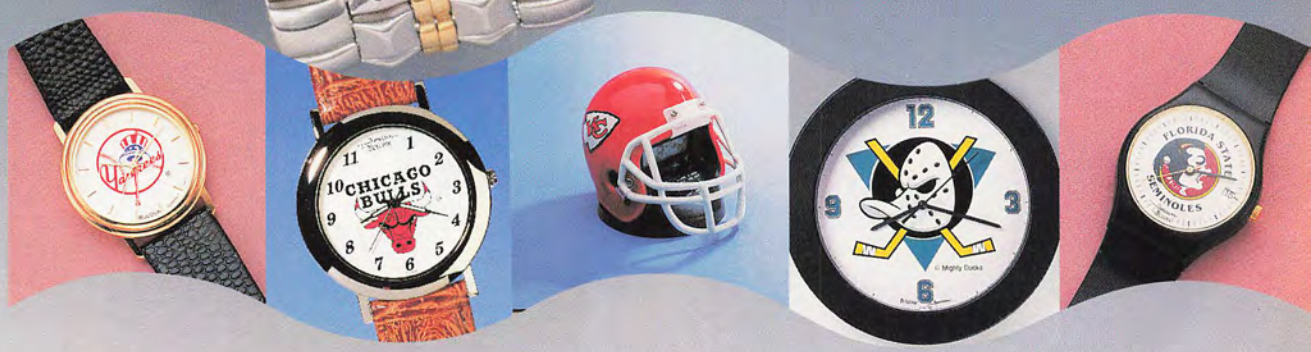

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(Seattle), Rich Miano (Philadelphia) and Brad Edwards should help. In fact, Taylor will push Walker at left cornerback, and Miano has the inside track at strong safety.

Elbert Shelley, a special teams All-Pro, was re-signed and may be given a shot.

KICKING GAME

Norm Johnson has been Atlanta's most accurate kicker over the past two seasons, making .904 of his attempts. Last season he was 21 of 25, with all four misses coming on kicks of 50 yards or more. Second-year punter Harold Alexander ranked near the bottom of the NFC with a 39.9-yard average and was sent to Detroit. Tampa Bay's Dan Stryzinski was signed in his place.

FALCONS ALL-TIME TEAM

Offense

WR	Alfred Jenkins (1975-83)
TE	Jim Mitchell (1969-79)
T	Mike Kenn (1978-94)
G	Bill Fralic (1985-92)
C	Jeff Van Note (1969-86)
G	R.C. Thielemann (1977-84)
T	George Kunz (1969-74)
WR	Andre Rison (1990-94)
QB	Steve Bartkowski (1975-85)
RB	Gerald Riggs (1982-88)
RB	William Andrews (1979-86)
K	Mike Luckhurst (1981-87)

Defense

DE	Claude Humphrey (1968-74, 1976-78)
DT	Rick Bryan (1984-1993)
DE	John Zook (1969-75)
LB	Tommy Nobis (1966-76)
LB	Greg Brezina (1968-79)
LB	Jessie Tuggle (1987-)
LB	Fulton Kuykendall (1975-84)
CB	Deion Sanders (1989-93)
S	Ray Brown (1971-77)
S	Scott Case (1984-94)
CB	Rolland Lawrence (1973-81)
P	John James (1972-81)

Special Teams - Deion Sanders (1989-93)

Clarence Verdin, the NFL's sixth-ranking all-time kickoff returner, was lost to Tampa Bay. Metcalf more than ably replaces him.

BUILDING A WINNER

With the Falcons, generating adequate offense isn't the trouble. It's defensive pressure on opposing quarterbacks that's conspicuously missing, and that appears to be the nucleus of the team's shortcomings.

The defense must regain some of the attitude it lost when Sanders left. The Falcons can score all they want, and they score a lot, but this franchise is in for further heartache until players step up and stop someone else from scoring. ■

ROSTER

HEAD COACH: June Jones (NFL Record: 7–9)
1994 RECORD: 7–9, T 2nd NFC West

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	EXP.	COLLEGE
68	Agee, Mel	DT	6–5	295	4	Illinois
73	Anderson, Dunstan	DL	6–4	254	1	Tulsa
32	Anderson, Jamal	RB	5–10	240	1	Utah
92	Archambeau, Lester	DE	6–5	275	5	Stanford
89	Birden, J.J.	WR	5–9	165	6	Oregon
19	Dixon, Corey	WR	5–7	155	1	Nebraska
56	Doleman, Chris	DE	6–5	275	10	Pittsburgh
75	Eatman, Irv	OT	6–7	305	9	UCLA
20	Edwards, Brad	S	6–2	207	7	So. Car.
87	Emanuel, Bert	WR	5–10	175	1	Rice
48	Ford, Darryl	LB	6–1	230	2	N. Mex. St.
65	Fortin, Roman	G-C	6–5	295	5	S. Diego St.
67	Gardner, Moe	NT	6–2	265	4	Illinois
1	George, Jeff	QB	6–4	210	5	Illinois
50	George, Ron	LB	6–2	225	2	Stanford
71	Goldberg, Bill	DT	6–2	280	2	Georgia
53	Gordon, Dwayne	LB	6–1	240	2	New Ham.
47	Harper, Roger	S	6–2	223	2	Ohio State
3	Hebert, Bobby	QB	6–4	215	9	NW La.
34	Heyward, Craig	RB	5–11	265	7	Pittsburgh
95	Holt, Pierce	DT	6–4	275	7	Angelo St.
39	Jack, Eric	CB	5–10	177	1	New Mex.
44	Johnson, D.J.	CB	6–0	190	6	Kentucky
9	Johnson, Norm	K	6–2	203	13	UCLA
66	Kennedy, Lincoln	T-G	6–6	350	2	Washington
7	Klein, Perry	QB	6–2	218	1	C.W. Post
88	Le Bel, Harper	TE	6–4	255	6	Colo. St.
80	Lewis, Nate	WR	5–11	198	6	Oregon Tech
86	Lyons, Mitch	TE	6–4	265	2	Mich. St.
81	Mathis, Terance	WR	5–10	175	5	New Mex.
57	Matthews, Clay	LB	6–2	245	17	USC
21	Metcalf, Eric	RB-WR	5–10	190	7	Texas
38	Miano, Rich	S	6–1	200	11	Hawaii
22	Montgomery, Altor	LB	6–0	205	5	Houston
26	Phillips, Anthony	CB	6–2	207	1	Texas A&M
62	Richards, Dave	G	6–5	310	7	UCLA
36	Ross, Kevin	S	5–9	185	11	Temple
37	Shelley, Elbert	CB	5–11	190	8	Ark. State
90	Smith, Chuck	DE	6–2	257	3	Tennessee
84	Spencer, Darryl	WR	5–8	172	1	Miami (Fla.)
4	Stryzinski, Dan	P	6–1	195	6	Indiana
	Talley, Darryl	LB	6–4	236	13	W. Va.
	Taylor, Terry	CB	5–10	185	11	So. Ill.
61	Tobeck, Robbie	C	6–4	287	1	Wash. St.
58	Tuggle, Jessie	LB	5–11	230	8	Valdosta St.
4	Tyner, Scott	K	6–1	189	1	Okla. St.
35	Vinson, Tony	RB	6–1	229	1	Towson St.
45	Walker, Darnell	CB	5–8	168	2	Oklahoma
70	Whitfield, Bob	T	6–5	300	3	Stanford
69	Williams, Thomas	DE	6–3	274	1	Wyoming
72	Zandofsky, Mike	C-G	6–2	305	6	Washington

1995 DRAFT PICKS

ROUND	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	Bush, Devon	SS	5-11	190	Florida St.
2	Davis, Ronald	CB	5-19-	208	Tennessee
3	Styles, Lorenzo	LB	6-1	244	Ohio State
5	Preston, Roell	WR	5-10	187	Mississippi
6	Hall, Travis	DE	6-5	278	BYU
7	Burrough, John	DT	6-5	265	Wyoming

1994 WRAP-UP

TEAM DATA

Total Offense:	335.1 yards per game
Total Defense:	364.3 yards per game
Scoring Offense:	19.8 points per game
Scoring Defense:	24.1 points per game

LEADERS

Passing:	Jeff George, 322–524–3734–18, 23 TDs
Rushing:	Craig Heyward, 183 att., 779 yds., 7 TDs
Receiving:	Terance Mathis, 111 rec., 1342 yds., 11 TDs
Kicking:	Norm Johnson, 21–25 FGs, 32–32 XP, 95 points
Punting:	Harold Alexander, 71 punts, 39.9 avg.
Kickoff Returns:	Clarence Verdin, 44 ret., 23.3 avg.
Punt Returns:	Clarence Verdin, 23 ret., 4.9 avg.
Tackles:	Jessie Tuggle, 195, 111 solo
Sacks:	Chuck Smith, 11
Interceptions:	D.J. Johnson, 5 for 0 yards

RESULTS

at Detroit (OT)	28–31	San Diego	10– 9
L.A. Rams	31–13	at New Orleans	32–33
Kansas City	10–30	at Denver	28–32
at Washington	27–20	Philadelphia	28–21
at L.A. Rams	8– 5	at San Francisco	14–50
Tampa Bay	34–13	New Orleans	20–29
San Francisco	3–42	at Green Bay	17–21
at L.A. Raiders	17–30	Arizona	10– 6

PROJECTED STARTING LINEUP

OFFENSE

21	ERIC METCALF	WR
81	TERANCE MATHIS	WR
66	LINCOLN KENNEDY	LT
62	DAVE RICHARDS	LG
65	ROMAN FORTIN	C
72	MIKE ZANDOFSKY	RG
70	BOB WHITFIELD	RT
89	J.J. BIRDEN	WR
87	BERT EMANUEL	WR
1	JEFF GEORGE	QB
34	CRAIG HEYWARD	RB
9	NORM JOHNSON	K

DEFENSE

90	CHUCK SMITH	LE
95	PIERCE HOLT	LT
67	MOE GARDNER	RT
56	CHRIS DOLEMAN	RE
58	JESSIE TUGGLE	ILB
57	CLAY MATTHEWS	ILB
	DARYL TALLEY	LB
	TERRY TAYLOR	LCB
44	D.J. JOHNSON	RCB
36	KEVIN ROSS	FS
38	RICH MIANO	SS
4	DAN STRYZINSKI	P

Personnel changes made after April 22 may not be reflected.

Information provided by: Charlie Taylor, Director of Public Relations.

ST. LOUIS RAMS

Let's be honest. For the past half decade or so, the Los Angeles/St. Louis Rams haven't been able to do much of anything right. This team, which played for the NFC championship as recently as 1990, has since managed to win just 23 games.

The Rams have seen quarterback Jim Everett leave town. Coach Chuck Knox was fired after last season's 4–12 record. His teams underachieved on the field and in the front office to a 15–33 mark in the past three seasons.

It seemed the one thing this organization could do was arrange a sweetheart deal with a city hungry for the franchise, like St. Louis.

Commissioner Paul Tagliabue advised owners to vote against approving the team's move to St. Louis, which they did in mid-March.

MITCHELL HADDAD

SEAN GILBERT

With the move rejected, St. Louis and the Rams were ready to file anti-trust suits against the National Football League. On April 12, that was avoided when league owners convened for a second time. The Rams got the necessary 23 votes to reverse the earlier decision after agreeing to pay a hefty relocation fee (close to $30 million) plus other considerations to the league.

The Rams have a new coach in Rich Brooks, but it remains to be seen if anything will change on the field for this team.

QUARTERBACKS

Just about everyone thought the Rams would select a quarterback with their first draft pick last season, taking either Heath Shuler or Trent Dilfer. Instead, they traded down for offensive lineman Wayne Gandy, who some said couldn't block. The latter was a chronic problem for Ram quarterbacks, who sustained head injuries at about the frequency of crash-test dummies.

Chris Miller, signed as a free agent for $9 million, did a decent job, completing 54.6 percent of his passes for 16 touchdowns, though he did throw 14 interceptions.

Chris Chandler is gone via free agency, and it seems clear that Miller, as gutsy as he is, doesn't qualify as the one who will lead this team back to any semblance of past glory. There is Tommy Maddox, but he was rarely used last season and generally was ineffective when he did play.

RUNNING BACKS

Even with a coach who based everything on running the ball, last season's No. 2 and No. 3 rushers were quarterbacks Miller and Chandler, who combined for 161 yards.

Jerome Bettis, who followed up his Rookie of the Year season by projecting that he would gain 2,000 yards, barely got 1,000 (1,025, actually). The Battering Ram was battered last season, in large part due to a less than stellar offensive line. Of course, when no other back on your team is capable of getting 100 yards over an entire season, it figures defenses are going to key on Bettis.

Johnny Bailey was effective catching the ball, leading the Rams with 58 receptions.

RECEIVERS

Last year was a comeback of sorts for Willie "Flipper" Anderson, who caught 46 passes for 945 yards after several weak seasons. Anderson celebrated his good fortune by leaving the team via free agency.

The Rams actually outpassed their opponents, part of that owing to the fact that they were behind so often. Jessie Hester, who has caught at least one pass in 78 straight games, and Alexander Wright, a free agent from the Los Angeles Raiders, signed for three years at $3 million, probably will be the starters.

When it comes to the Rams' passing game, perhaps the biggest mystery is why tight end Troy Drayton isn't more a part of it. Drayton caught just 32 passes but scored a team-high six touchdowns. Big and fast, he's the kind of player with the potential to break plays every time he touches the ball.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

While it says a lot about the strength and fortitude of Jackie Slater that he could be playing into his 40s, it also speaks volumes

STEVE WOLTMANN

JEROME BETTIS

RAMS
36

ST. LOUIS RAMS

about the talent level on one of the worst lines in football. Rams quarterbacks were sacked on an average of more than two times a game, and the longest run from scrimmage by a Rams running back was 19 yards. Twice last season, Los Angeles had the ball first-and-goal at the 1-yard line and failed to move forward the necessary three feet.

The front office was so concerned with its line that in 1994 it bypassed drafting a quarterback and instead traded down for Gandy, whom they figured would become a fixture at left tackle.

Gandy proved to be a bust and showed little enthusiasm on the field. It was soon obvious that he wouldn't fit at left tackle, and after spending a good deal of the season on the sideline, Gandy ended up at right tackle. On the left, protecting the Rams' fragile, multimillion-dollar quarterback investment was Clarence Jones, a free agent who had started exactly zero games in four years of NFL experience.

The Rams have signed guard Dwayne White, a free agent from the New York Jets, for five years at $10 million. He replaces Tom Newberry (now with Pittsburgh) on the left side, while Leo Goeas starts at right guard. Bern Brostek, the best of last year's bunch, returns at center.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

The defensive line, along with Bettis, was supposed to spearhead the Rams' return to respectability. Returning the talents of second-year phenom Sean Gilbert at tackle and the quickly developing Robert Young at end, the Rams added free agents Fred Stokes from Washington and Jimmie Jones from Dallas. At first, the group played well. But by the time the team started to slide after opening 4–5, more than a few fingers started wagging their way.

Rookies Jay Williams and Brad Ottis looked good when given the chance.

Keith McCants, the former Tampa Bay Buccaneer and Alabama All-American, was signed in the off-season. Big things have always been expected of McCants, and the Rams hope that potential can still be tapped.

LINEBACKERS

If the defensive line was missing guts, maybe it was because Shane Conlan and Roman Phifer were hoarding them. Conlan led the team in tackles with 106 despite not playing on third downs. In his ninth year, Conlan became the first defensive player to be named the team's MVP since Nolan Cromwell back in 1981.

As Conlan moves toward capping a terrific career, Phifer finally seems on the verge of an exceptional one himself. Considered too small and soft against the run, Phifer bulked up and played with newfound passion. He was second on the team in tackles and passes defensed, despite playing 12 games wearing a brace for a hyperextended elbow.

The corps is further solidified by the addition of Carlos Jenkins, a free-agent signee from the Vikings, who was Minnesota's fourth-leading tackler.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

This was probably the brightest spot on the defense, especially since it had been such a black hole a season earlier. Todd Lyght played exceptionally well, leading the team in passes defensed with 14. Robert Bailey or Steve Israel may be on the right corner.

Toby Wright, a rookie last year, proved solid at safety as did rookie Keith Lyle. The other safety, Marquez Pope, was a real find, but the Rams failed to match San Francisco's four-year, $4.7 million offer sheet.

CHRIS MILLER

PETER BROUILLET

Rams Don't Exploit Talented Drayton

The way the Rams have ignored tight end Troy Drayton in his first two seasons, one would think the team was scoring too much. That's not the case. The Rams ranked 11th in the NFC in total offense and scored just 29 touchdowns on offense in 1994. Consider that San Francisco's Jerry Rice, Ricky Watters and Brent Jones had more touchdowns (35) than the entire Rams team.

Yet, for two years, the Rams have consistently turned away from Drayton, arguably their best athlete and potentially one of their most dangerous weapons. He's a big target at 6–3, 255 and able to dominate defensive backs. He's also too quick and too fast for linebackers to guard one-on-one. Finally, Drayton just has a talent for making things happen, not that he's had that much of an opportunity with the Rams.

Picked 39th overall in the 1993 draft, Drayton has caught just 59 passes. He doesn't drop a lot of balls, the Rams just don't throw to him. When they do, things happen. Consider that Drayton led the team in touchdowns with six. Others around the league have taken notice. Drayton was chosen as a first alternate to Brent Jones in the Pro Bowl game.

Still, there is so much more Drayton can do. He knows that better than anyone.

"That's a mystery to me," he told the *Orange County* (Calif.) *Register* last season, about his on-field treatment. "It's something I have to deal with. I think if I was in the offense week-in and week-out, at least I'd know what to look forward to."

If the Rams hope to go anywhere, especially down the field and into the end zone, they should realize how remiss they have been in all but ignoring Drayton's pass-catching talent.

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KICKING GAME

The Rams have two of the best in the business in punter Sean Landeta and kicker Tony Zendejas. Landeta led the NFL in punting with an average of 44.8 yards and placed 23 punts inside the opposition's 20. Zendejas made 18-of-23 field-goal attempts, leading the team in scoring for the fourth consecutive year. The Rams did a good job of returning the ball, averaging 11.5 yards a punt and 22.6 yards per kick, but they ranked 25th in the league in kick coverage (23 yards) and last in punt coverage (13.6).

BUILDING A WINNER

Until this franchise decides it wants to win even more than it wants to turn a big profit, things will remain pretty much the same.

RAMS ALL-TIME TEAM

Offense

WR	Elroy "Crazy Legs" Hirsch (1949-57)
TE	Marlin McKeever (1961-66, 1971-72)
T	Jackie Slater (1976-)
G	Tom Mack (1966-78)
C	Rich Saul (1970-81)
G	Dennis Harrah (1975-87)
T	Charlie Cowan (1961-75)
WR	Henry Ellard (1983-93)
QB	Norm Van Brocklin (1949-57)
RB	Eric Dickerson (1983-87)
RB	Dan Towler (1950-55)
K	Mike Lansford (1982-90)

Defense

DE	David "Deacon" Jones (1961-71)
DT	Merlin Olsen (1962-76)
DT	Larry Brooks (1972-82)
DE	Jack Youngblood (1971-84)
LB	Les Richter (1954-62)
LB	Isiah Robertson (1971-78)
LB	Maxie Baughan (1966-70)
CB	Ed Meador (1959-70)
S	Nolan Cromwell (1977-87)
S	Will Sherman (1954-60)
CB	Jerry Gray (1985-91)
P	Bob Waterfield (1945-52)

Special Teams - Jon Arnett (1957-63)

The Rams will sign free agents and hire coaches, but not the big ones they need.

When that commitment is made, the first order of business will be to round up an acceptable offensive line and wide receivers. Bettis could be an all-timer if they would just surround him with some quality personnel. Actually, the Rams are only a few players away from being respectable. But it's a matter of getting those players and convincing all of them that this organization cares more about winning than luxury boxes. ■

ROSTER

HEAD COACH: Rich Brooks (NFL Record: 0-0)
1994 RECORD: 4-12, 4th NFC West

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	EXP.	COLLEGE
77	Ashmore, Daryl	T	6-7	300	3	N'western
21	Bailey, Johnny	RB	5-8	180	5	Texas A&I
28	Bailey, Robert	CB	5-9	176	4	Miami (Fla.)
71	Belin, Chuck	G	6-2	312	2	Wisconsin
36	Bettis, Jerome	RB	5-11	243	2	Notre Dame
33	Bostic, James	RB	5-11	230	1	Auburn
49	Brady, Rickey	TE	6-4	246	1	Oklahoma
88	Brantley, Chris	WR	5-10	180	1	Rutgers
61	Brostek, Bern	C	6-3	300	5	Washington
80	Bruce, Isaac	WR	6-0	178	1	Memphis
54	Collins, Brett	LB	6-1	234	3	Washington
56	Conlan, Shane	LB	6-3	235	8	Penn St.
29	Davis, Dexter	CB	5-10	184	4	Clemson
84	Drayton, Troy	TE	6-3	255	2	Penn St.
67	Edwards, Ronald	T	6-5	311	1	N.C. A&T
75	Farr, D'Marco	DT	6-1	270	1	Washington
70	Gandy, Wayne	T	6-4	289	1	Auburn
90	Gilbert, Sean	DT	6-4	315	3	Pittsburgh
79	Goeas, Leo	G-T	6-4	300	5	Hawaii
86	Hester, Jessie	WR	5-11	175	9	Fla. State
57	Homco, Thomas	LB	6-0	245	2	N'western
31	Israel, Steve	CB	5-11	186	3	Pittsburgh
	Jenkins, Carlos	LB	6-3	215	4	Michigan St.
72	Jones, Clarence	T	6-6	280	4	Maryland
50	Jones, Ernest	LB	6-2	239	1	Oregon
98	Jones, Jimmie	DT	6-4	276	5	Miami (Fla.)
52	Kelly, Joe	LB	6-2	235	9	Washington
81	Kinchen, Todd	WR	5-11	187	3	LSU
5	Landeta, Sean	P	6-0	210	10	Towson St.
34	Lester, Tim	RB	5-9	215	3	E. Kentucky
64	Loneker, Keith	G	6-3	330	2	Kansas
41	Lyght, Todd	CB	6-0	186	4	Notre Dame
35	Lyle, Keith	S	6-2	204	1	Virginia
8	Maddox, Tommy	QB	6-4	205	3	UCLA
53	Martin, Chris	LB	6-2	241	12	Auburn
9	Martin, Jamie	QB	6-2	215	1	Weber St.
	McCants, Keith	DE	6-3	265	6	Alabama
13	Miller, Chris	QB	6-2	212	8	Oregon
26	Newman, Anthony	S	6-0	199	7	Oregon
95	Ottis, Brad	DE	6-4	272	1	Wayne St.
	Parker, Anthony	CB	5-10	177	5	Arizona St.
58	Phifer, Roman	LB	6-2	230	4	UCLA
97	Robinson, Gerald	DE	6-3	280	7	Auburn
92	Rocker, David	DT	6-4	267	4	Auburn
59	Rolling, Henry	LB	6-2	225	8	Nevada
82	Ross, Jermaine	WR	5-11	192	1	Purdue
78	Slater, Jackie	T	6-4	285	19	Jackson St.
60	Stokes, Fred	DE	6-3	274	8	Ga. So.
	White, Dwayne	G	6-2	315	5	Alcorn St.
96	Williams, Jay	DE	6-3	266	1	Wk. Forest
	Wright, Alexander	WR	6-0	195	5	Auburn
32	Wright, Toby	S	5-11	203	1	Nebraska
76	Young, Robert	DE	6-6	273	4	Miss. St.
10	Zendejas, Tony	K	5-8	165	10	Nevada

1995 DRAFT PICKS

ROUND	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	Carter, Kevin	DE	6-5	274	Florida
2	Wiegert, Zach	T	6-4	311	Nebraska
2	James, Jessie	T	6-4	318	Miss. State
3	McLaughlin, Steve	K	6-0	167	Arizona
4	Pinkney, Lovell	WR-TE	6-4	248	Texas
5	Scurlock, Mike	DB	5-10	197	Arizona
7	McBurrows, Gerald	DB	6-0	195	Kansas
7	O'Berry, Herman	DB	5-9	182	Oregon
7	Miller, Bronzell	DE-LB	6-3	247	Utah
7	Thomas, J.T.	WR	5-10	173	Ariz. St.

1994 WRAP-UP

TEAM DATA

Total Offense:	296.7 yards per game
Total Defense:	323.1 yards per game
Scoring Offense:	17.9 points per game
Scoring Defense:	22.8 points per game

LEADERS

Passing:	Chris Miller, 173-317-2104-14, 16 TDs
Rushing:	Jerome Bettis, 319 att., 1025 yds., 3 TDs
Receiving:	Willie Anderson, 46 rec., 945 yds., 5 TDs
Kicking:	Tony Zendejas, 18-23 FGs; 28-28 XP, 82 points
Punting:	Sean Landeta, 78 punts, 44.8 avg.
Kickoff Returns:	David Lang, 27 ret., 23.2 avg.
Punt Returns:	Johnny Bailey, 19 ret., 8.1 avg.
Tackles:	Shane Conlan, 106, 82 solo
Sacks:	Robert Young, 6.5
Interceptions:	Marquez Pope, 3 for 66 yds.

RESULTS

Arizona	14-12	Denver	27-21
at Atlanta	13-31	L.A. Raiders	17-20
San Francisco	19-34	at San Francisco	27-31
at Kansas City	16- 0	at San Diego	17-31
Atlanta	5- 8	New Orleans	15-31
at Green Bay	17-24	at Tampa Bay	14-24
N.Y. Giants	17-10	at Chicago	13-27
at New Orleans	34-37	Washington	21-24

PROJECTED STARTING LINEUP

OFFENSE

	ALEXANDER WRIGHT	WR
72	CLARENCE JONES	LT
	DWAYNE WHITE	LG
61	BERN BROSTEK	C
79	LEO GOEAS	RG
70	WAYNE GANDY	RT
84	TROY DRAYTON	TE
86	JESSIE HESTER	WR
12	CHRIS MILLER	QB
36	JEROME BETTIS	RB
21	JOHNNY BAILEY	RB
10	TONY ZENDEJAS	K

DEFENSE

76	ROBERT YOUNG	LE
98	JIMMIE JONES	LT
90	SEAN GILBERT	RT
	KEVIN CARTER	RE
	CARLOS JENKINS	LLB
56	SHANE CONLAN	MLB
58	ROMAN PHIFER	RLB
41	TODD LYGHT	LCB
	ANTHONY PARKER	RCB
32	TOBY WRIGHT	SS
26	ANTHONY NEWMAN	FS
5	SEAN LANDETA	P

Personnel changes made after April 22 may not be reflected.

Information provided by Rick Smith, Director of Public Relations.

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CAROLINA PANTHERS

Don't blame the Carolina Panthers if they have a little identity crisis in their 1995 inaugural season.

The team has been cobbled together from the free-agent market, the expansion draft and the collegiate draft. It will play its home games in 1995 at Clemson's Memorial Stadium, 140 miles away and in another state from the Panthers' base in Charlotte, N.C. Their sparkling new home, Carolinas Stadium, won't be ready until 1996.

Coach Dom Capers wants the Panthers to be thought of first as a defensive-minded team and is installing a 3–4 system like he used successfully as Pittsburgh's defensive coordinator.

Carolina's aggressive forays into the free-agent market surprised a number of National Football League officials, who, unsolicited, said that the first-year Panthers may be better than other teams expect.

STEVE BEYER

LAMAR LATHON

"The Panthers will be like the Colorado Rockies were in baseball," Green Bay general manager Ron Wolf said. "They will be a real pain by their second year and will be competitive immediately."

The Panthers' philosophy is different from Jacksonville's. While the Jaguars selected six players with million-dollar or higher contracts in February's expansion draft, Carolina took just one: wide receiver Mark Carrier. The Panthers saved most of their money for the free-agent market, where they spent more freely than any other NFL team.

Carolina's hopes will rest on a group of high-priced free agents like linebackers Lamar Lathon and Sam Mills, tight end Pete Metzelaars, kicker John Kasay, defensive lineman Mike Fox and cornerback James Williams.

QUARTERBACKS

Want to know what it feels like to get gang-punched in a bar every Sunday? Become a quarterback for an NFL expansion team.

Two good candidates for the Panthers' dubious honor are Jack Trudeau and Frank Reich. Carolina picked Trudeau, late of the New York Jets, in the expansion draft. Both are perennial backups.

Top draft pick Kerry Collins, who led the nation in passing efficiency and Penn State to a perfect season as a senior, might not have to wait long to be thrust into the fray.

RUNNING BACKS

The Panthers like former Atlanta running back Tony Smith, who also will be valuable on kick returns. The same goes for Randy Baldwin, the AFC's leading kickoff returner in 1994 and another competitor at tailback.

Ex-Dallas running back Derrick Lassic wants a spot, but a serious knee injury that cost him the entire '94 season makes him questionable.

At fullback, Howard Griffith, who had been with the Rams, may have the edge. Bob Christian and Brian O'Neal also have a shot.

RECEIVERS

The only recognizable name is Carrier. Averaging nearly 50 catches a year in his eight NFL seasons, Carrier dropped to 29 receptions in 1994 for Cleveland.

The other wideout spot is up for grabs. Willie Green had several good seasons with Detroit from 1991-93.

The Panthers spent some money for a tight end and came up with a good one, former Buffalo standout Metzelaars, who was a starter during each of the Bills' four Super Bowl seasons.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Carolina hopes left tackle Derrick Graham, a former starter at Kansas City, will anchor the line. The Panthers literally are putting their money on Graham, giving the free agent a whopping $6 million, four-year contract. The right tackle could be Harry Boatswain, a San Francisco 49er last season. Rookie Blake Brockermeyer of Texas, one of three Panther first-round selections, could contribute right away.

Center Curtis Whitley, a former Clemson player, should feel right at home in Memorial Stadium. The guard positions are un-

settled. Darryl Moore, Baron Rollins, Matt Elliott, Mike Finn and Carlson Leomiti, among others, will battle for the two slots.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Carolina left other NFL general managers shaking their heads when it signed former New York Giant Fox to a five-year, $9 million contract early in the free-agency period. Fox, who will play left end, has averaged less than two sacks a season in his five-year career.

At nose tackle is Greg Kragen, 33, who wanted to retire after last season in Kansas City. The Panthers changed his mind.

The right end could be either Mark Thomas or Tyrone Rodgers, both picked in the expansion draft, or Shawn King, a second-round pick in the college draft.

LINEBACKERS

Carolina spent major money here. Lathon got most of it with a five-year, $13.5 million contract. Capers plans to turn Lathon loose on the pass rush from right outside linebacker.

On the inside is Mills, a former New Orleans linebacker, who probably will lead Carolina in tackles.

Frank Stams, Cleveland's fifth-leading tackler, and Darion Connor, the Saints' sack king with 10½, will vie for the other outside spot. Other possibilities are Dave Garnett and Andre Powell.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Carolina's first pick in the expansion draft was former New England Patriot cornerback Rod Smith, a certain starter. The odds-on favorite in the other corner is five-year veteran James Williams, the ex-Arizona Cardinal and Buffalo Bill.

The club also made an interesting expansion pick in cornerback Tim McKyer, who played under Capers in Pittsburgh. Carolina signed Brett Maxie, formerly of the Falcons, at strong safety. Cary Brabham and Fred Foggie compete for the other role.

The Panthers see enough in defensive back Tyrone Poole of Fort Valley State in Georgia to have selected him in the first round with the 22nd overall pick.

KICKING GAME

Carolina stole Kasay, one of the NFL's best young kickers, away from Seattle early in the free-agency period. Solid punter Tommy Barnhardt came from New Orleans back to his home state of North Carolina.

Baldwin and Smith have been exceptional returning kickoffs with other teams. Dewell Brewer and Vernon Turner also figure in.

BUILDING A WINNER

The Panthers may play a lot of low-scoring games this season. Their offense is expected to be conservative under coordinator Joe Pendry, and the defense should be further along than the offense.

Carolina will have 14 picks in the 1996 draft and must make serious progress in that area if it is to reach the .500 mark by its second season. This year, it's hard to envision the Panthers with more than three to five

ROSTER

HEAD COACH: Dom Capers (NFL Record: 0-0-0)
1994 RECORD:

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	EXP.	COLLEGE
	Baldwin, Randy	RB	5-10	216	5	Mississippi
	Barnhardt, Tommy	P	6-2	207	9	N.C.
	Ball, Eric	RB	6-2	220	7	UCLA
	Brabham, Cary	DB	6-0	195	2	SMU
	Brewer, Dewell	RB	5-8	199	2	Oklahoma
	Boatswain, Harry	T	6-4	295	5	New Haven
	Buchanan, Richard	WR	5-10	178	3	N'western
	Butcher, Paul	LB	6-0	240	8	Wayne St.
	Campbell, Matthew	TE	6-4	257	1	So. Car.
	Carrier, Mark	WR	6-0	185	9	Nicholls
	Christian, Bob	RB	5-10	225	3	N'western
	Clifton, Greg	WR	6-0	178	3	J.C. Smith
	Connor, Darion	LB	6-2	245	5	Jackson St.
	Cuthbert, Randy	RB	6-2	224	2	Duke
	Elliott, Matt	C-G	6-3	294	3	Michigan
	Farkas, Kevin	T	6-9	375	1	Ap'lachian
	Finn, Mike	T	6-5	275	3	Ark. PB
	Foggie, Fred	DB	6-0	200	4	Minnesota
	Fox, Mike	DE	6-6	288	6	W. Va.
	Frazier, Daryl	WR	6-1	181	1	Florida
	Garnett, Dave	LB	6-2	219	3	Stanford
	Goldberg, Bill	DT	6-2	280	3	Georgia
	Graham, Derrick	T	6-4	315	6	Ap'lachian
	Green, Willie	WR	6-4	188	5	Mississippil
	Griffith, Howard	FB	6-0	226	3	Illinois
	Guilford, Eric	WR	5-8	165	3	Ariz. State
	Hawkins, Steve	WR	6-5	210	2	W. Mich.
	Haws, Kurt	TE	6-5	248	2	Utah
	Kasay, John	K	5-10	189	5	Georgia
	Kragen, Greg	NT	6-3	265	11	Utah State
	Lassic, Derrick	RB	5-10	188	3	Alabama
	Lathon, Lamar	LB	6-3	252	6	Houston
	Leomiti, Carlson	G	6-3	380	1	S. Diego St.
	Marrow, Vince	TE	6-3	251	2	Toledo
	Martin, Emerson	G	6-2	297	1	Hampton
	Maxie, Brett	S	6-2	194	10	Texas So.
	McKyer, Tim	CB	6-0	178	10	Texas-Arl.
	Mills, Sam	LB	5-9	225	8	Montclair St.
	Metzelaars, Pete	TE	6-7	250	13	Wabash
	Mims, David	WR	5-8	191	2	Baylor
	Moore, Darryl	G	6-3	293	4	UTEP
	O'Neal, Brian	RB	6-0	233	2	Penn St.
	Pederson, Doug	QB	6-3	212	3	NE La.
	Powell, Andre	LB	6-1	235	3	Penn St.
	Price, Shawn	DE	6-5	260	3	Pacific
	Reich, Frank	QB	6-4	210	10	Maryland
	Rodenhauser, Mark	C	6-5	280	8	Ill. St.
	Rodgers, Tyrone	DT	6-3	276	4	Washington
	Rollins, Baron	G	6-4	335	2	La. Tech
	Rose, Barry	WR	5-11	183	2	Wis.-St. Pt.
	Ryans, Larry	WR	5-11	182	2	Clemson
	Scott, Patrick	LB	6-4	241	2	S.C. St.
	Sims, William	LB	6-3	265	2	S.W. La.
	Smith, Rod	CB	5-11	187	4	Notre Dame
	Smith, Tony	RB	6-1	212	3	So. Miss.
	Stams, Frank	LB	6-2	230	6	Notre Dame
	Swann, Charles	WR	6-1	188	2	Ind. St.
	Teeter, Mike	DT	6-3	272	4	Michigan
	Thomas, Mark	DE	6-5	273	4	N.C. State
	Tillman, Lawyer	TE	6-5	254	6	Auburn
	Trudeau, Jack	QB	6-3	227	10	Illinois
	Turner, Vernon	KR	5-8	180	4	Carson-Newman
	Whitley, Curtis	C	6-1	288	3	Clemson
	Wier, Eric	WR	6-2	175	1	Vanderbilt
	Williams, Gerald	DE	6-3	288	9	Auburn
	Williams, James	CB	5-10	190	6	Fresno St.

PROJECTED STARTING LINEUP

OFFENSE

MARK CARRIER	WR
DERRICK GRAHAM	LT
CARLSON LEOMITI	LG
CURTIS WHITLEY	C
DARRYL MOORE	RG
HARRY BOATSWAIN	RT
PETE METZELAARS	TE
WILLIE GREEN	WR
FRANK REICH	QB
HOWARD GRIFFITH	FB
RANDY BALDWIN	RB
JOHN KASAY	K

DEFENSE

MIKE FOX	LE
GREG KRAGEN	NT
GERALD WILLIAMS	RE
FRANK STAMS	LOLB
SAM MILLS	LILB
DARION CONNOR	RILB
LAMAR LATHON	ROLB
ROD SMITH	LCB
BRETT MAXIE	SS
CARY BRABHAM	FS
JAMES WILLIAMS	RCB
TOMMY BARNHARDT	P

1995 DRAFT PICKS

ROUND	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	Collins, Kerry	QB	6-5	235	Penn State
1	Poole, Tyrone	DB	6-4	251	Ft. Val. St.
2	King, Shawn	DE	6-4	251	NE La.
4	Garcia, Frank	C	6-1	290	Washington
5	Senters, Mike	DB	6-1	178	Northwestern
5	Peterson, Andrew	OT	6-5	305	Washington
6	Strahan, Steve	DT	6-1	294	Baylor
6	Colquitt, Jerry	DB	6-4	208	Tennessee
7	Cota, Chad	DB	6-1	188	Oregon
7	Reed, Michael	DB	5-9	177	Bost. Coll.

Personnel changes made after April 22 may not be reflected.

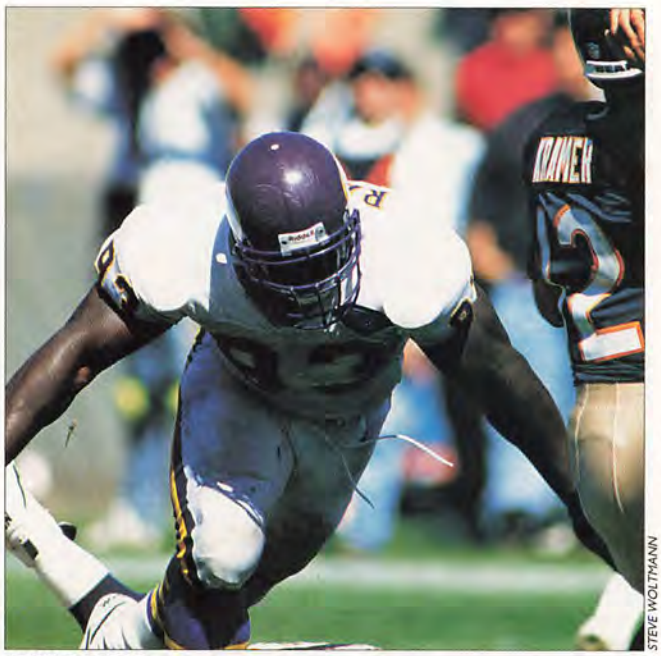
Information provided by Charlie Dayton, Director of Public Relations.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Faster than you can say Fuad Reveiz, the Minnesota Vikings were a first-round playoff casualty for the third straight year. Only this time it was more embarrassing, since the Vikes were clobbered by division rival Chicago, a team they had twice routed in the regular season.

The playoff loss, in which the Vikings fired 61 passes and lost four turnovers, was indeed a wakeup call. There is work to be done and positions to be re-won.

Warren Moon, who was signed to take Minnesota to the Super Bowl, passed for big numbers in 15 starts. His 4,264-yard season was a Vikings record. Yet, Moon had his anxious moments, throwing 19 interceptions and only 18 touchdown passes. The Vikes need a dumpoff man, possibly tight end Andrew Jordan, or halfback Amp Lee.



STEVE WOLTHANN

JOHN RANDLE

Minnesota's defense featured some big-name heroes: Henry Thomas, John Randle, Jack Del Rio, Vencie Glenn. But the Vikings lost five of their last eight, including the playoff, and hardly dominated on defense (26.3-point average in the final eight games).

There definitely will be new talent on the Vikings' roster, maybe even a new quarterback, and certainly some defensive help along the rushline.

And then there's Reveiz. The 10-year veteran boomed 28 straight field goals, the second-longest streak in National Football League history. Remarkably, Reveiz has been near-perfect from inside the 45-yard line, hitting 55 of his last 56 attempts. His spectacular Pro Bowl season (34 of 39) earned him a four-year, $2.8 million contract.

QUARTERBACKS

At 38, Moon can still scare a defense. He led the Vikings to a record 5,848 total yards. Yet, Minnesota averaged 22.3 points and actually was held under 21 points in seven games, five of them losses.

Moon can take a team deep into the playoffs, but he needs better support from the tight end position and a running back who can catch the ball.

Sean Salisbury, Moon's backup, has played well at times.

RUNNING BACKS

Hand all of the "most courageous" awards to Terry Allen. A knee-surgery victim as a rookie, Allen needed another ligament operation following a 1,201-yard season in 1992. He rebounded for a second time, rushing for 1,031 yards in '94. Allen isn't a great receiver, which is why the Vikings have mixed reactions about his full-time status.

This could be the year that Lee, once a San Francisco 49er prospect, becomes a legitimate starter. Lee carried only 29 times last year but caught 45 passes and, as an ex-49er, knows all about running crisp patterns.

There is also speedy Robert Smith and popular 5–9 fullback Scottie Graham, each of whom has had his golden moments in the Viking backfield.

RECEIVERS

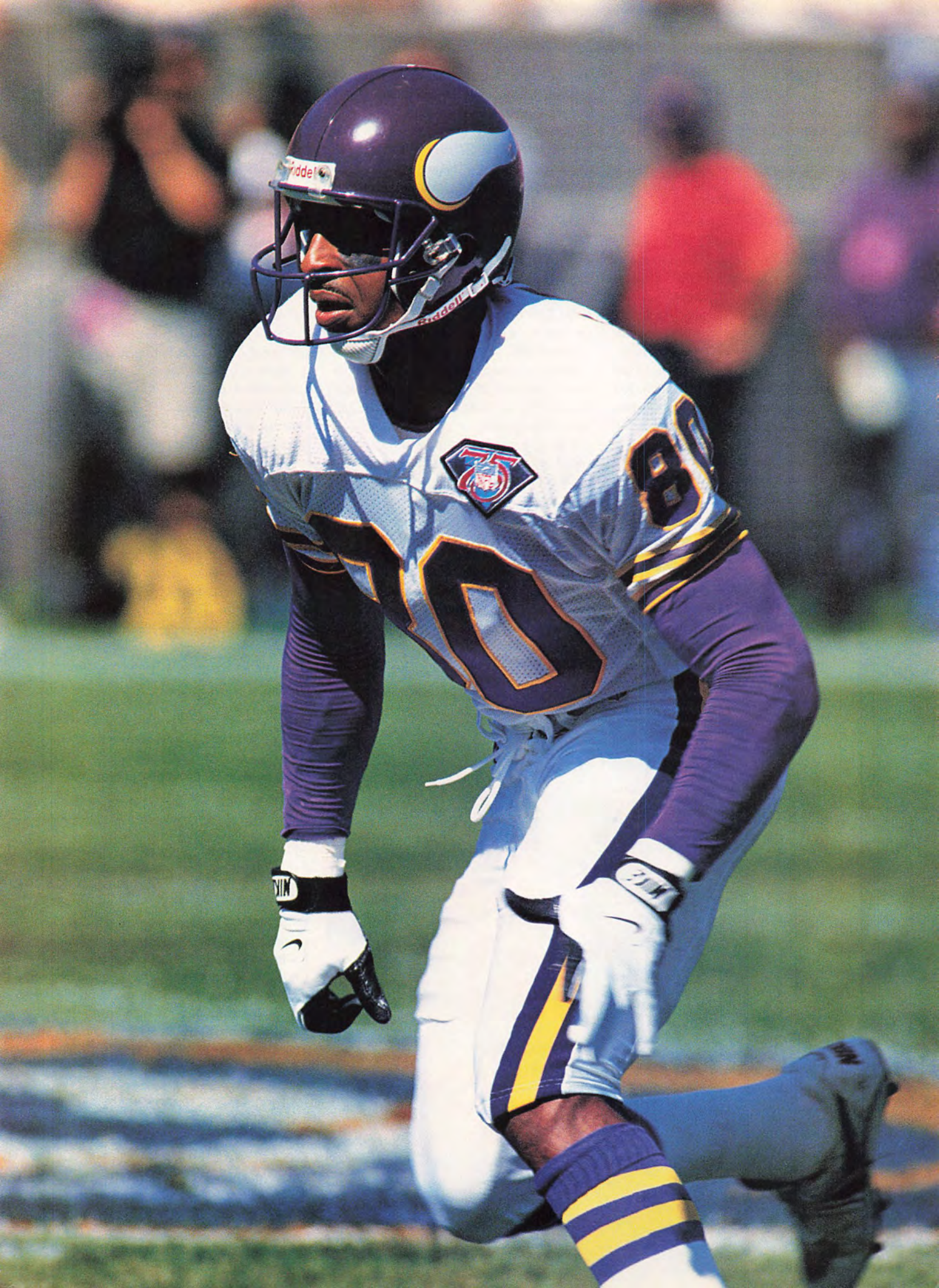
Cris Carter, always among the league's top dozen receivers, leaping above defenders and coming down with acrobatic catches, earned a Pro Bowl trip for his highlight season in 1993 but last year really moved into the upper echelon of receivers. Carter caught 122 passes, an NFL single-season record, and in the process shattered Rickey Young's 16-year team record (88). And when Jake Reed also logged an epic 85-catch season, the Vikes had their first twin 1,000-yard receivers.

Qadry Ismail started four games and averaged 15.5 yards on 45 catches, 17 on third down that produced first downs. David Palmer, a great athlete but only 5–8, 167 pounds, didn't impress as expected and wound up handling punts. Eric Guilford, another 5–8 speedster, eventually may win the battle of the little guys.

Tight end was a problem area. Adrian Cooper and Brent Novoselsky, two powerful blocker types, ended up on injured reserve. The desperate Vikes brought 34-year-old

STEVE BEYER

CRIS CARTER



MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Steve Jordan back into the huddle for four games. Andrew Jordan (no relation) started 11 games and overachieved with 35 catches.

Minnesota hopes Cooper will develop into their big-play tight end.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Stellar left guard Randall McDaniel, a mere 274-pounder, anchors the Minnesota line, which averages nearly 300 pounds. Alongside McDaniel, the Vikings gambled and got away with it. Todd Steussie, a 6–6, 298-pounder who squats over 600 pounds, started all 16 games at left tackle. Steussie, the 19th pick in the 1994 draft, wasn't the only new name along the blocking unit. Jeff Christy, who had never started a game, won the center job. On the right side, free agent Chris Hinton lived up to his All-Pro reputation with a fine drive-blocking year. Bernard Dafney, a young journeyman, moved inside to right guard with Hinton's arrival.

The Steussie-McDaniel-Christy-Dafney-Hinton unit allowed just 31 sacks, down from 35 in 1993, when the Vikes threw 147 fewer passes.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Randle, showing the burst that made him one of the most feared rushers in pro football, outperformed fellow tackle Henry Thomas in every category except paycheck. Accordingly, Minnesota let Thomas jump to Detroit. A workaholic practice player, Randle hit the gaps and piled up a team-high 13½ sacks. Thomas dropped to seven sacks and 59 solo tackles. The rushline totaled 36 sacks, down from 45. And at the end, the lightweight rushers seemed to wear down in the playoffs.

The two ends, James Harris and Roy Barker, are young and prone to tactical errors. For sure, they didn't evoke memories of Chris Doleman. But then, neither did Doleman, himself, in Atlanta. The defense finished fifth overall in the NFL, first against the rush but 21st against the pass, giving up 25 aerial TDs.

Barker is a young playmaker who will improve. He is out of the same 1992 draft that was thinned by three lost picks in the Herschel Walker trade.

Young Fernando Smith, a power rusher with long arms and an attitude, could challenge for playing time.

LINEBACKERS

Fighting through traffic, Del Rio again led the Vikings with 185 tackles. And again, he missed the Pro Bowl. Selection committees notwithstanding, Del Rio had a Pro Bowl year, with 6½ tackles for losses and 11 passes defensed, plus two sacks and two fumble recoveries.

Ed McDaniel regained his weak-side spot and proved there is still a place for an active 5–11 linebacker. McDaniel, the 17th linebacker taken in the '92 draft, bounced back from a shoulder injury to regain his old form. McDaniel's jarring style produced 171 tackles, second only to Del Rio, and 13 tackles for losses. And with strong-side backer Carlos Jenkins, who since has signed with the Rams, adding 84 tackles, the Vikings got 440 tackles from their talented crew.

Former Tampa Bay-Detroit star Broderick Thomas, a terror at times, invisible at others, could be a major addition.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

The Vikings shuffled their secondary last season, starting young Dewayne Washington on the right corner. They cut left corner Carl Lee, an ex-Pro Bowler, and went with Anthony Parker, a Plan B acquisition from Indianapolis. Parker and Washington made

Thomas Turns Up in Minnesota

Every pro football career has its share of crazy turns, but linebacker Broderick Thomas can lay claim to perhaps the craziest of all.

Last summer, Thomas was cut by Tampa Bay from a defensive unit that finished 22nd in the National Football League. This spring, Thomas was rewarded with a three-year, $5.85 million contract by the Minnesota Vikings, a team that finished fifth in defense, first against the run.

"I knew, coming into this league, that I was capable of doing the things that top-notch outside linebackers do," he says. "I was taken away from that. I had to play four or five positions in a game."

Shortly after leaving the Bucs, Thomas signed with Detroit and became the starting left linebacker there last season. He insists that he got a bad rap in Tampa. The way Thomas tells it, the Buccaneer coaches "said I was a bad apple, that I was disruptive."

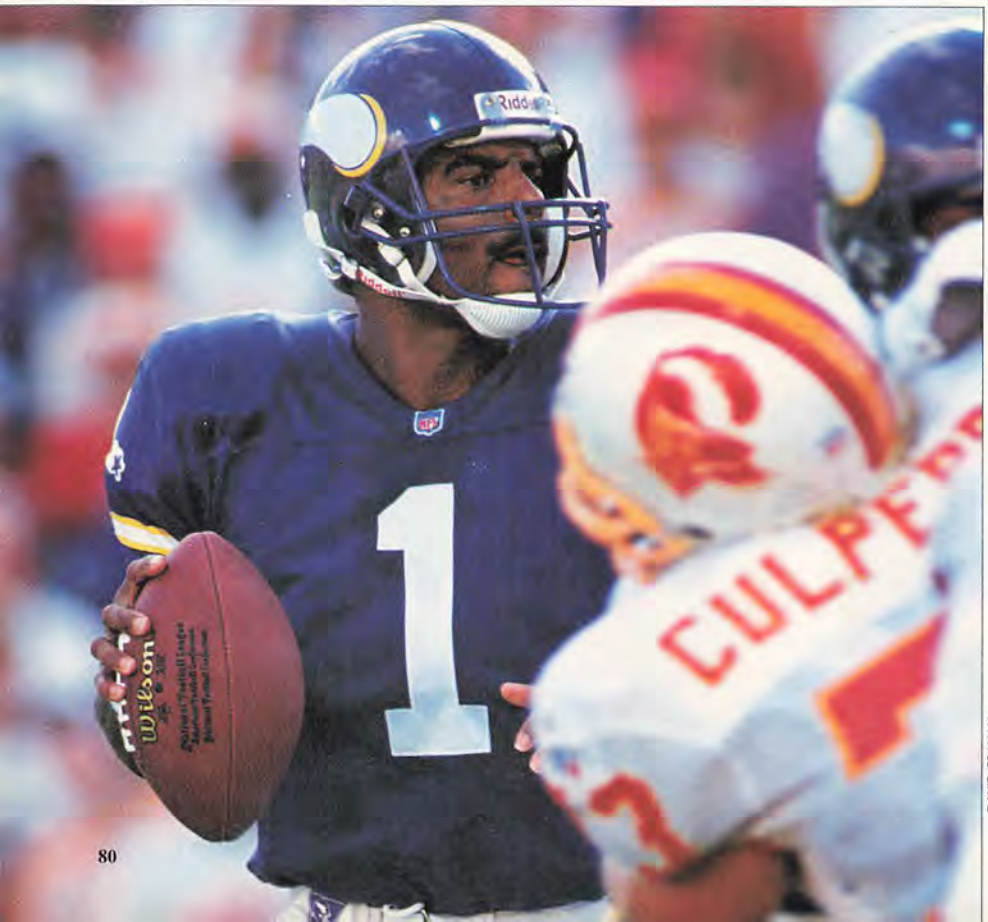
Lion coach Wayne Fontes always liked Thomas. "When we played against Broderick at Tampa Bay, he was a thorn in our side," says Fontes. "He made a tremendous number of tackles and was all over the field."

Thomas responded to Fontes' approach by recording 85 tackles and a team-high seven sacks. The Lions, however, couldn't fit Thomas, an unrestricted free agent, under the salary cap.

"I think sometimes people used him as a one-dimensional player," says Dennis Green, Thomas' new coach. "But not for us. He'll do it all here. He'll cover, he'll blitz and he'll also pass rush."

With Thomas involved in every aspect of the defense, fans and teammates alike will soon learn to recite his nickname: Sandman. Obviously, that's because his violent hits put opponents to sleep.

WARREN MOON



DAVID GRAHAM

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the Vikes look like geniuses. Each had three defensive touchdowns, two each on steals. Glenn, a ball-hawking free safety, added four interceptions and 86 tackles. Parker has joined Jenkins with the Rams.

Strong safety Todd Scott has flown off with the New York Jets. Harlon Barnett, formerly of the New England Patriots, replaces the onetime (1992) Pro Bowler.

KICKING GAME

Minnesota has a long history of excellent special teams. Last year's units exceeded that reputation. Foremost was Reveiz's big season. And there was punter Mike Saxon's 42.9-yard average, achieved while placing 28 balls inside the opposition's 20-yard line.

VIKINGS ALL-TIME TEAM

Offense

WR	Anthony Carter (1985-93)
TE	Steve Jordan (1982-94)
T	Ron Yary (1968-82)
G	Randall McDaniel (1988-)
C	Mick Tinglehoff (1962-78)
G	Ed White (1969-77)
T	Grady Alderman (1961-74)
WR	Sammy White (1976-86)
QB	Fran Tarkenton (1961-66, 1972-78)
RB	Chuck Foreman (1973-79)
RB	Bill Brown (1962-74)
K	Fred Cox (1963-77)

Defense

DE	Carl Eller (1964-78)
DT	Alan Page (1967-78)
DT	John Randle (1990-)
DE	Jim Marshall (1961-79)
LB	Matt Blair (1974-85)
LB	Scott Studwell (1977-90)
LB	Jeff Siemon (1972-82)
CB	Bobby Bryant (1967-80)
S	Paul Krause (1968-79)
S	Joey Browner (1983-91)
CB	Ed Sharockman (1962-72)
P	Harry Newsome (1990-93)

Special Teams - Darrin Nelson (1982-89, 91-92)

Ismail averaged 23.1 yards on kickoffs. Palmer's 6.4-yard average on punt returns was disappointing.

BUILDING A WINNER

The Vikings face several dilemmas. Moon, their starting quarterback, will be 39 during the season. Allen, their 1,000-yard rusher, isn't a sure pass catcher.

On the other hand, Minnesota has an abundance of defensive talent and a gifted teacher in coordinator Tony Dungy. Under Dungy, the defense scored seven touchdowns, giving the unit 17 in 44 games during Dungy's watch.■

ROSTER

HEAD COACH: Dennis Green (NFL Record: 30-20-0)
1994 RECORD: 10-6, 1st NFC Central

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	EXP.	COLLEGE
	Alex, Keith	G	6-4	307	1	Texas A&M
21	Allen, Terry	RB	5-10	207	5	Clemson
92	Barker, Roy	DE	6-4	285	3	N.C.
42	Barnett, Harlon	S	5-11	200	5	Mich. St.
56	Bercich	LB	6-1	236	1	Notre Dame
96	Boudreaux, Frank	DT	6-5	263	1	N'western
36	Boyd, Malik	CB	5-10	176	1	Southern
52	Brown, Richard	LB	6-3	240	7	S. Diego St.
80	Carter, Cris	WR	6-3	202	8	Ohio State
62	Christy, Jeff	C	6-3	290	2	Pittsburgh
87	Cooper, Adrian	TE	6-5	268	4	Oklahoma
	Cunningham, Rick	T	6-6	307	4	Texas A&M
75	Dafney, Bernard	G	6-5	329	3	Tennessee
34	Davis, Brian	CB	6-2	187	8	Nebraska
55	Del Rio, Jack	LB	6-4	246	10	USC
71	Dixon, David	G	6-5	354	1	Ariz. State
29	Evans, Charles	RB	6-1	232	2	Clark
46	Gerak, John	G	6-3	284	2	Penn St.
31	Graham. Scottie	RB	5-9	217	3	Ohio State
24	Griffith, Robert	DB	5-11	189	1	S. Diego St.
23	Hammonds, Shelly	CB	5-10	182	1	Penn St.
99	Harris, James	DE	6-6	255	2	Temple
91	Harrison, Martin	DE	6-5	240	3	Washington
78	Hinton, Chris	T	6-4	300	12	N'western
82	Ismail, Qadry	WR	6-0	191	2	Syracuse
14	Johnson, Brad	QB	6-5	220	3	Fla. State
53	Jones, Donald	LB	6-0	232	2	Washington
89	Jordan, Andrew	TE	6-4	262	1	W. Car.
83	Jordan, Steve	TE	6-3	240	13	Brown
32	Lee, Amp	RB	5-11	198	3	Fla. State
61	Lindsay, Everett	G	6-4	301	2	Mississippi
58	McDaniel, Ed	LB	5-11	231	3	Clemson
64	McDaniel, Randall	G	6-3	274	7	Ariz. State
60	McElroy, Reggie	T	6-6	298	12	W. Tex. St.
37	McGriggs, Lamar	S	6-3	218	4	W. Ill.
33	Mincy, Charles	CB	5-11	197	4	Washington
1	Moon, Warren	QB	6-3	219	11	Washington
68	Morris, Mike	C	6-5	277	8	N.E. Mo. St.
74	Nelson, Royce	OL	6-4	315	2	Nicholls St.
85	Novoselsky, Brent	TE	6-2	237	7	Penn.
22	Palmer, David	RB	5-8	167	1	Alabama
93	Randle, John	DT	6-1	272	5	Texas A&I
86	Reed, Jake	WR	6-3	217	4	Grambling
7	Reveiz, Fuad	K	5-11	227	10	Tennessee
65	Ruether, Mike	OL	6-4	286	9	Texas
12	Salisbury, Sean	QB	6-5	217	7	USC
4	Saxon, Mike	P	6-3	205	10	S. Diego St.
59	Sheppard, Ashley	LB	6-3	240	2	Clemson
95	Smith, Fernando	DE	6-6	276	1	Jackson St.
26	Smith, Robert	RB	6-0	197	2	Ohio State
73	Steussie, Todd	OL	6-6	304	1	California
51	Thomas, Broderick	LB	6-4	250	6	Nebraska
98	Tuaolo, Esera	DT	6-2	263	4	Oregon St.
81	Walsh, Chris	WR	6-1	193	2	Stanford
20	Washington, Dewayne	CB	5-11	189	1	N.C . State

1995 DRAFT PICKS

ROUND	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	Alexander, Derrick	DE	6-5	282	Fla. State
1	Stringer, Korey	OT	6-6	310	Ohio State
2	Thomas, Orlanda	DB	6-2	210	SW La.
2	Fuller, Corey	DB	5-11	200	Fla. State
4	May, Chad	QB	6-2	220	Kansas St.
5	Stewart, James	RB	6-3	235	Miami (Fla.)
6	Solomon, John	LB	6-3	242	Sam H. St.
7	White, Jose	LB	6-2	261	Howard
7	Fisk, Jason	DT	6-4	280	Stanford

1994 WRAP-UP

TEAM DATA

Total Offense:	365.5 yards per game
Total Defense:	296.4 yards per game
Scoring Offense:	22.3 points per game
Scoring Defense:	19.6 points per game

LEADERS

Passing::	Warren Moon, 371-601-4264-19, 18 TDs
Rushing:	Terry Allen, 255 att., 1031 yds., 8 TDs
Receiving::	Cris Carter, 122 rec., 1256 yds., 7 TDs
Kicking::	Fuad Reveiz, 34-39 FGs, 30-30XP, 132 points
Punting:	Mike Saxon, 77 punts, 42.9 avg.
Kickoff Returns:	Qadry Ismail, 35 ret., 23.1 avg.
Punt Returns:	David Palmer, 30 ret., 6.4 avg.
Tackles:	Jack Del Rio, 185, 118 solo
Sacks:	John Randle, 13.5
Interceptions:	Anthony Parker, 4 for 99 yds., 2 TDs

RESULTS

at Green Bay	10-16	at New England	20-26
Detroit	10- 3	N.Y. Jets	21-31
at Chicago	42-14	Tampa Bay	17-20
Miami	38-35	Chicago	33-27
at Arizona	7-17	at Buffalo	21-17
at N.Y. Giants	27-10	at Detroit	19-41
Green Bay	13-10	San Francisco	21-14
at Tampa Bay	36-13	**Playoffs**	
New Orleans	21-20	Chicago	18-35

PROJECTED STARTING LINEUP

OFFENSE

86	JAKE REED	WR
89	ANDREW JORDAN	TE
73	TODD STEUSSIE	LT
64	RANDALL MCDANIEL	LG
62	JEFF CHRISTY	C
75	BERNARD DAFNEY	RG
78	CHRIS HINTON	RT
82	QADRY ISMAIL	WR
80	CRIS CARTER	WR
1	WARREN MOON	QB
21	TERRY ALLEN	RB
7	FUAD REVEIZ	K

DEFENSE

92	ROY BARKER	LE
98	ESERA TUAOLO	LT
93	JOHN RANDLE	RT
99	JAMES HARRIS	RE
51	BRODERICK THOMAS	SLB
55	JACK DEL RIO	MLB
58	ED MCDANIEL	WLB
33	CHARLES MINCY	LCB
20	DEWAYNE WASHINGTON	RCB
42	HARLON BARNETT	SS
	ORLANDA THOMAS	FS
4	MIKE SAXON	P

Personnel changes made after April 22 may not be reflected.

Information provided by David Pelletier, Director of Public Relations.

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Worn by pro's under their jerseys. Made of 100% cotton with team name embroidered at neck. Full athletic cut, 5% lycra in cuffs and collar for a better fit. Machine wash, tumble dry. Made in the USA.
Adult sizes: **S, M, L, XL, XXL, 3XL** **$29.99**
NFL.....**Item# EMN**
NCAA .....**Item# DMN**

D. SCRIPT II SWEATSHIRT by Starter
Heavyweight hooded sweatshirt with felt team lettering sewn on front and logo on sleeve. Machine wash, tumble dry. Imported.
Most NFL teams available.
Adult sizes: **M, L, XL**.....**$54.99**
XXL.....**$59.99**
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Adult sizes: **L**(44), **XL**(48).....**$89.99**
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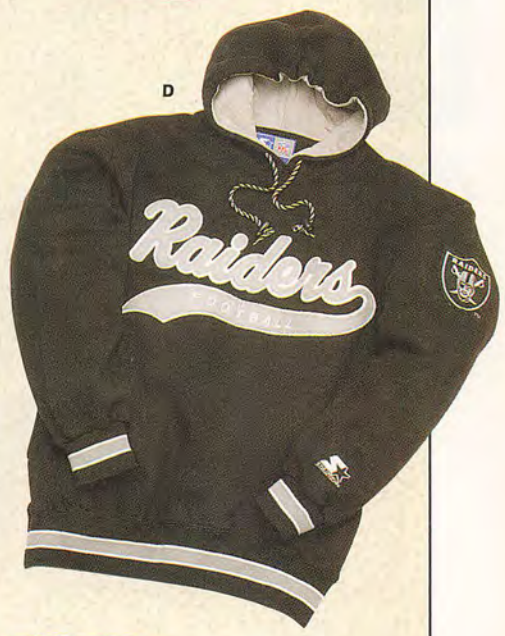
C

D



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GREEN BAY PACKERS

There was something annoyingly familiar about the Green Bay Packers last season. For one thing, they finished 9–7 for the third-straight time in Mike Holmgren's coaching tenure. For another, they again were bounced out of the playoffs by the Dallas Cowboys in a 35-9 rout. And for a third, the Packer running game averaged 96.4 yards a game, just about what it's always averaged under the pass-minded Holmgren.

The Packers lived by the pass, putting it up 609 times, a club record. Quarterback Bett Favre now has thrown 1,575 passes in three Green Bay seasons, even more than Miami's Dan Marino (1,427) in his first three years.

And that high-priced defense? Reggie White, Steve McMichael, Terrell Buckley et al. were effective most of the year but in one late-season stretch gave up 29 points to Buffalo, 42 to Dallas and 34 to Detroit. And in a postseason rematch with the Cowboys, the defense surrendered 450 yards and 35 points.

MICHAEL YELMAN

REGGIE WHITE

"There are some bright spots," says Holmgren. "Some improvements took place. I think you start with the quarterback. I was very pleased with how Brett Favre handled the challenge."

Favre passed for 3,882 yards, third-most in team history, and a club single-season record 33 touchdowns. So the passing game is in good hands. But the Packers' running game is ordinary at best, and on defense, there is an aging rushline. White, McMichael and Sean Jones are all in their 30s.

QUARTERBACKS

Favre has arrived as the leader of this offense. Responding to Holmgren's criticism of throwing into heavy coverage, he threw only 14 interceptions in 582 attempts, just 2.4 percent. In '93, it was 24 interceptions in 522 attempts, (4.6 percent).

Favre had four 300-yard games and eight 200-yard games. In the run to the playoffs, he had an 8–3 touchdown-to-interception ratio. Lefty Mark Brunell won the backup job from Ty Detmer. The Packers like Brunell's mobility and touch. Detmer has hung around for three seasons, attempting only five passes, and could be expendable.

RUNNING BACKS

The Packers finished 19th in rushing, with Edgar Bennett gaining 623 yards and Reggie Cobb, who was selected by Jacksonville in the expansion draft, adding 579. Bennett, who can catch, fit into Holmgren's San Francisco-style offense with 78 receptions.

Holmgren, however, needs more speed from his runners. Dorsey Levens is a 235-pound power back with a history of injuries. Maybe second-year man LeShon Johnson is the answer. Johnson led the nation in rushing (1,976 yards) his senior year at Northern Illinois and showed flashes of breakaway skills as a rookie.

RECEIVERS

Sadly, the career of Sterling Sharpe, the club's all-time career receptions leader (595 catches) appears to be over. Sharpe suffered a neck injury and finished the year on injured reserve after a 94-catch, 18-touchdown season. Green Bay cut him in February.

Split end Robert Brooks now becomes Favre's favorite receiver, although he will be firing a goodly number to newcomer Mark Ingram this season. Ingram, a free agent, was obtained in a trade with Miami for a fourth-round pick in the April draft. The eight-year veteran had 44 catches for 506 yards and six touchdowns in 1994. Brooks grabbed 58 passes and averaged 28.9 yards on kickoff returns.

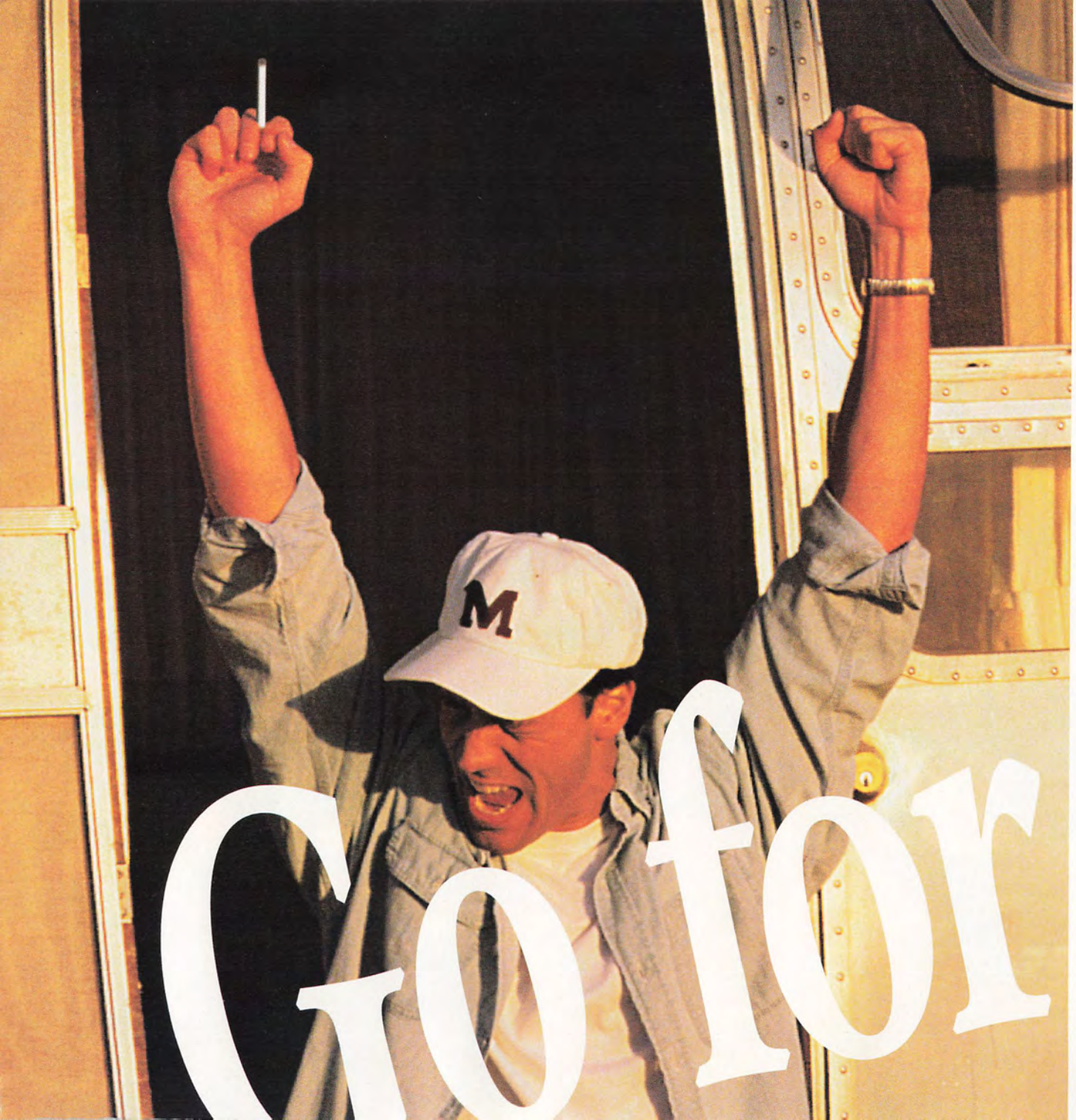
Terry Mickens doesn't have Brooks' speed, but he can jump and use his body in traffic. Charles Jordan has great speed and runs precision routes. And Jay Kearney, a sixth-round draft pick in '94 who averaged 25.9 yards per catch as a senior at West Virginia, is also in the mix.

Keith Jackson, who arrived via a trade with Miami, takes over at tight end. Jackson, who was with the Dolphins the past three years after spending his first four in the NFL

STEVE WOLTMANN

BRETT FAVRE

Riddell
Wilson
76



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with Philadelphia, has 4,636 yards in receptions. He had 673 on 59 catches in '94. Ed West, last year's starter, left for Indianapolis via free agency. Mark Chmura, who gained four late-season starts after West went down with an ankle injury, recorded 14 catches and added seven more in the playoffs.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Coached by Tom Lovat, the Packer line dominated most games on an offense that averaged 332.3 yards and 23.8 points a game. Left tackle Ken Ruettgers, starting his 11th year, is the team's most complete blocker. Opposite Ruettgers will be Jerry Crafts, a free-agent signee from Buffalo. Guy McIntyre and Harry Galbreath line up at the guards, with Frank Winters at center.

Jamie Dukes, who started six games at center, didn't log a minute in the final eight games. The Packers must add youth to the line. Possibilities include tackles Aaron Taylor, a No. 1 pick who missed his entire rookie season after a serious knee injury in minicamp, and Earl Dotson.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

At 33, White remains the best combination run stopper-pass rusher among all NFL linemen. Forget the modest statistics: 50 tackles, eight sacks, two forced fumbles. White was almost always double- or triple-teamed, freeing his comrades to make big plays. That's why Sean Jones, the other end, totaled 59 hits and 10½ sacks.

Given the tricky salary cap rules, it's doubtful that the Packers can keep their rushline intact. White's cap number is $3.975 million and Jones' is $2.650 million. McMichael and John Jurkovic were less costly at $400,000 and $380,000. But McMichael, once great against the run, will be 38 next season. Jurkovic, 27, has younger legs, and his best years are ahead of him.

Don Davey made two starts in '94 but has taken the free agency route to Jacksonville. Gilbert Brown, a 330-pound nose tackle, was an inside rusher in the nickel package until tearing a knee ligament in the 13th game. Free agent Roosevelt Nix from Minnesota provides depth.

LINEBACKERS

Bryce Paup, only the second Green Bay linebacker in 12 years to make the Pro Bowl (Tim Harris was the other), became yet another key free-agency loss for the Pack during the off-season. He is now a Buffalo Bill.

Middle linebacker Fred Strickland, who came from Minnesota, won the job when veteran Wayne Simmons was lost to knee surgery and Paup was shifted outside. Strickland gave the Packers a decent season, but the suspicion is that Green Bay is looking for more speed inside. Simmons could fill the vacancy at left linebacker created by Paup's departure, and George Koonce, the right linebacker, posted 104 tackles, 77 of them solos.

Backup James Willis, slowed by knee surgery in December 1993, played impressively in spots. Mark Williams and Ruffin Hamilton are projects.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Strong safety LeRoy Butler continued to terrorize ball carriers and receivers. His totals (63 tackles, three interceptions) didn't measure up to his epic year in 1993 (90 tackles, 25 passes defensed), but Butler is eager to regain his Pro Bowl form.

Young Doug Evans took over the right corner position after Roland Mitchell went out

EDGAR BENNETT

STEVE WOLTMANN

Versatile Butler Is Making A Difference

To use the latest NFL buzzword, Green Bay strong safety LeRoy Butler is a difference maker. Or a playmaker, as they used to say.

Butler was out of the Packer lineup for three games last year with a serious case of pneumonia after developing fluid in his lungs. Yet, Butler finished with a secondary-high 63 tackles and three interceptions.

"He hit that hole when he had pneumonia," says defensive coordinator Fritz Shurmur. "But otherwise, he was fine. He's got All-Pro ability."

Under Shurmur, the Packers opened as a zone team. But as the season progressed, Shurmur let the players' skills take over, sending in more blitzes. Accordingly, Butler's role became more diversified.

"We like to use him as our eighth guy against run formations," says Shurmur. "We bring him up a lot, and he can blitz, too. He's a run filler against teams using a lot of run formations, but he has the ability to cover man-for-man as a cover guy. He gives us a lot of flexibility. He's ideal for the coverages we use."

Says Packer secondary coach Dick Jauron: "I don't think there's anybody in the business any better. And he hasn't reached his potential yet."

Butler is back, but he still can't shake that scary bout with pneumonia. "I couldn't breathe," he says. "I thought I was having a heart attack. The pain was too much, and there was all that fluid in my chest. For a moment, I thought I was a goner."

It isn't hard to measure Butler's defensive skills. In a Pro Bowl season two years ago, he was the Pack's defensive MVP, with six interceptions, 25 passes defensed and 111 tackles (89 solos). Butler is eager to play back to those stats.

"I thrive on adversity," he says. "It's fun overcoming it. I'm flamboyant, and I don't lack confidence. I've got to be that way."

with a herniated disk in the opening game.

Cornerback Terrell Buckley was traded to Miami in the off-season, while nickel back Corey Harris and safety Tim Hauck both left Green Bay via free agency, drastically reducing depth. Mike Prior lends experience at safety behind the Butler-George Teague duo. Teague, who overcame a thyroid condition in camp last year, is on the verge of stardom.

KICKING GAME

Kicker Chris Jacke hit only 19-of-26 field goals. Craig Hentrich finished ninth among NFC punters with a 41.4-yard average. Brooks ran back punts (8.8 yards) and an occasional kickoff (28.9 yards).

PACKERS ALL-TIME TEAM

Offense

WR	Don Hutson (1935-45)
TE	Ron Kramer (1957, 1959-64)
T	Cal Hubbard (1929-35)
G	Jerry Kramer (1958-68)
C	Jim Ringo (1953-63)
G	Gale Gillingham (1966-74, 1976)
T	Forrest Gregg (1956, 1958-70)
WR	James Lofton (1978-86)
QB	Bart Starr (1956-71)
RB	Jim Taylor (1958-66)
RB	Paul Hornung (1957-62, 1964-66)
K	Chris Jacke (1989-)

Defense

DL	Willie Davis (1960-69)
DL	Henry Jordan (1959-69)
DL	Dave "Hog" Hanner (1952-64)
LB	Ray Nitschke (1958-72)
LB	Bill Forester (1953-63)
LB	Fred Carr (1968-77)
LB	Dave Robinson (1963-72)
CB	Herb Adderley (1961-69)
S	Bobby Dillon (1952-59)
S	Willie Wood (1960-71)
CB	Willie Buchanon (1972-78)
P	Dick Deschaine (1955-57)

Special Teams - Al Carmichael (1953-58)

The coverage teams' weaknesses were very much in evidence in the playoffs as the Packers gave up an average of 34.3 yards on kickoffs and one 17-yard punt return.

BUILDING A WINNER

General Manager Ron Wolf said it best after the Packers were routed by Dallas in the playoffs. "We've never won a game like this," Wolf said. "Until we do, we'll be an absolute middle-of-the-pack kind of team."

The Packers have their share of problems: cornerback Terrell Buckley's erratic coverage, special teams, backup quarterback. Otherwise, this is a talented team that needs to learn how to win the big one.■

ROSTER

HEAD COACH: Mike Holmgren (NFL Record: 28-22)
1994 RECORD: 9-7, T 2nd NFC Central

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	EXP.	COLLEGE
34	Bennett, Edgar	FB	6-0	224	3	Fla. State
61	Bollinger, Brian	G	6-5	285	3	N.C.
87	Brooks, Robert	WR	6-0	175	3	So. Car.
71	Brown, Gary	T	6-4	290	1	Ga. Tech
93	Brown, Gilbert	DT	6-2	330	2	Kansas
36	Butler, LeRoy	S	6-0	197	5	Fla. State
89	Chmura, Mark	TE	6-5	245	3	Bost. Coll.
77	Crafts, Jerry	OT	6-6	351	3	Louisville
85	Crawford, Keith	WR	6-2	188	2	H. Payne
11	Detmer, Ty	QB	6-0	186	3	BYU
29	Dixon, Ricky	S	5-11	184	6	Oklahoma
72	Dotson, Earl	T	6-3	310	2	Texas A&I
33	Evans, Doug	CB	6-0	188	2	La. Tech
78	Fagan, Tommy	DE	6-5	265	1	NE La.
4	Favre, Brett	QB	6-2	222	4	So. Miss.
76	Galbreath, Harry	G	6-1	285	7	Tennessee
58	Hamilton, Ruffin	LB	6-1	230	1	Tulane
17	Hentrich, Craig	P	6-3	200	1	Notre Dame
70	Hope, Charles	G-C	6-3	303	1	C. St. (OH)
67	Hutchins, Paul	T	6-4	335	2	W. Mich.
82	Ingram, Mark	WR	5-11	194	8	Mich. St.
13	Jacke, Chris	K	6-0	200	6	UTEP
88	Jackson, Keith	TE	6-2	258	7	Oklahoma
37	Johnson, KeShon	CB	5-10	185	2	Arizona
42	Johnson, LeShon	RB	5-11	200	1	N. Ill.
96	Jones, Sean	DE	6-7	275	11	N'eastern
80	Jordan, Charles	WR	5-10	175	2	L. Bch. CC
64	Jurkovic, John	NT	6-2	290	3	Eastern Ill.
53	Koonce, George	LB	6-1	240	3	E. Car.
97	LaBounty, Matt	DE	6-3	268	2	Oregon
25	Levens, Dorsey	RB	6-1	235	1	Ga. Tech
22	McGill, Lenny	CB	6-1	194	1	Ariz. State
88	Mickens, Terry	WR	6-1	200	1	Fla. A&M
95	Nix, Roosevelt	NT	6-6	292	3	C. St. (OH)
12	Rubley, T.J.	QB	6-3	205	3	Tulsa
75	Ruettgers, Ken	T	6-6	290	10	USC
19	Schroeder, Bill	WR	6-1	195	1	Wis. LaC'sse
59	Simmons, Wayne	LB	6-2	245	2	Clemson
55	Strickland, Fred	LB	6-2	250	7	Purdue
79	Taylor, Aaron	G	6-4	300	1	Notre Dame
31	Teague, George	S	6-1	190	2	Alabama
23	Walker, Sammy	CB	5-11	200	4	Texas Tech
92	White, Reggie	DE	6-5	295	10	Tennessee
98	Wilkins, Gabe	DE	6-4	300	1	G. Webb
56	Willis, James	LB	6-1	238	2	Auburn
83	Wilner, Jeff	TE	6-4	250	1	Wesleyan (CT)
35	Wilson, Ray	S	6-1	204	1	New Mex.
52	Winters, Frank	C-G	6-3	290	8	W. Ill.

1995 DRAFT PICKS

ROUND	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	Newsome, Craig	DB	5-11	185	Ariz. St.
3	Holland, Darius	DT	6-4	303	Colorado
3	Henderson, William	RB	6-1	245	North Carolina
3	Williams, Brian	LB	6-2	230	USC
3	Freeman, Antonio	WR	6-0	185	Virginia Tech
4	Miller, Jeff	T	6-3	300	Mississippi
5	Barker, Jay	QB	6-2	215	Alabama
5	Jervet, Travis	RB	5-11	219	Citadel
6	Simmons, Charlie	WR	6-2	215	Georgia Tech
7	Timmerman, Adam	G	6-4	290	So. Dak. St.

1994 Wrap-up

TEAM DATA

Total Offense:	332.3 yards per game
Total Defense:	297.8 yards per game
Scoring Offense:	23.9 points per game
Scoring Defense:	17.9 points per game

LEADERS

Passing:	Brett Favre, 363-582-3882-14, 33 TDs
Rushing:	Edgar Bennett, 178 att., 623 yds., 5 TDs
Receiving:	Sterling Sharpe, 94 rec., 1119 yds., 18 TDS
Kicking:	Chris Jacke, 19-26 FGs, 41-43 XP, 98 points
Punting:	Craig Hentrich, 81 punts, 41.4 avg.
Kickoff Returns:	Corey Harris, 29 ret., 21.3 avg.
Punt Returns:	Robert Brooks, 40 ret., 8.8 avg., 1 TD
Tackles:	George Koonce, 104, 77 solo
Sacks:	Sean Jones, 10.5
Interceptions:	Terrell Buckley, 5 for 38 yards

RESULTS

Minnesota	16-10	at Buffalo	20-29
Miami	14-24	at Dallas	31-42
at Philadelphia	7-13	at Detroit	31-34
Tampa Bay	30- 3	Chicago	40- 3
at New England	16-17	Atlanta	21-17
L.A. Rams	24-17	at Tampa Bay	34-19
at Minnesota (OT)	10-13		
at Chicago	33- 6	**Playoffs**	
Detroit	38-30	Detroit	16-12
N.Y. Jets	17-10	at Dallas	9-35

PROJECTED STARTING LINEUP

OFFENSE

82	MARK INGRAM	WR
75	KEN RUETTGERS	LT
79	AARON TAYLOR	LG
52	FRANK WINTERS	C
76	HARRY GALBREATH	RG
77	JERRY CRAFTS	RT
88	KEITH JACKSON	TE
87	ROBERT BROOKS	WR
4	BRETT FAVRE	QB
34	EDGAR BENNETT	FB
42	LESHON JOHNSON	RB
13	CHRIS JACKE	K

DEFENSE

92	REGGIE WHITE	LE
64	JOHN JURKOVIC	NT
93	GILBERT BROWN	DT
96	SEAN JONES	RE
59	WAYNE SIMMONS	LOLB
55	FRED STRICKLAND	MLB
53	GEORGE KOONCE	ROLB
22	LENNY McGILL	LCB
33	DOUG EVANS	RCB
36	LEROY BUTLER	SS
31	GEORGE TEAGUE	FS
17	CRAIG HENTRICH	P

Personnel changes made after April 22 may not be reflected.

Information provided by Lee Remmel, Director of Public Relations.

DETROIT LIONS

A year ago, Detroit Lions coach Wayne Fontes talked about Scott Mitchell in glowing terms that indicated a run for the Super Bowl.

Some run. Mitchell, an $11 million free-agent quarterback, broke his right wrist in the ninth game, forcing the Lions to send in 15-year backup Dave Krieg for the stretch run. To his credit, or maybe to Barry Sanders' credit, the Lions slipped into the NFC playoffs with a 9–7 record. And they quickly slipped out with an all-too-familiar 16–12 loss to the Green Bay Packers.

The Lions, it seems, have the pieces of what Fontes calls the Super Bowl puzzle. Mitchell is a big, promising fastballer. Sanders is the game's best pure runner. Wideout Herman Moore went over defenders for 72 catches and 11 touchdowns. On defense, linebacker Chris Spielman, nose tackle Marc Spindler and free safety Bennie Blades were the key pieces, even if the unit sometimes puzzled its own coaches. Indeed, Detroit stunned Dallas, the defending Super Bowl champion, and finished with a 4–1 charge, scoring 138 points.

STEVE BEYER

HENRY THOMAS

"I'll be honest," Fontes said after the puzzle had fallen apart. "It has been my most difficult year. It has also been my best coaching year. I think my stock is still going upward."

But are the Lions headed upward — and onward to the Super Bowl — in the unpredictable NFC Central? Surely, with a healthy Mitchell and Sanders, the Lions have enough firepower. Their offensive line, once a patchwork unit of age and youth, remained intact through all 16 games. Fontes' defense, however, needs more speed and pass-rushing skills, a weakness sure to be addressed in the draft and/or free agency.

Spielman, of course, is one of the National Football League's toughest run-stoppers. But in the NFC Central, where the five clubs averaged 549 passes, the Lions have failed to generate a consistent rush. Pat Swilling, once one of the league's best speed rushers, has provided only 10 sacks in two years. He lost his job last season to Tracy Scroggins.

The defense, which jumped from 20th in the league to sixth in 1993, flip-flopped to 24th (337.8 yards per-game). Its sack total plunged from 43 to 27.

Yet veteran Pro Bowl tackle Lomas Brown remains unshaken by the numbers. "What I like is, we're sneaking up on people," says Brown. "We're not getting the fanfare, but we've got as much talent as any team around."

QUARTERBACKS

Even before he fractured his wrist, Mitchell was struggling. He fired three touchdown passes and set up the winning overtime field goal in the opener. And he passed the Lions into position for a dramatic overtime win over Dallas. Yet, Mitchell was a 48.4 percent passer when he went down, with a 10–11 touchdown-to-interception ratio. Simply put, Mitchell needs work.

Krieg, the 36-year-old backup, put up some big numbers in relief (275 yards against Green Bay, 351 yards against Buffalo, 211 yards against Miami) and won five regular-season games. He's now with the Arizona Cardinals.

The Lions signed a pair free-agent backups, Don Majkowski of Indianapolis and Donald Hollas of Cincinnati, adding to a stable that includes Chuck Long and Gino Torretta. Long hasn't started since '89, and Torretta has never started an NFL game. Don't be surprised if one or both are with another team when the 1995 season opens.

After past merry-go-round seasons on the quarterback carousel, the Lions appear in good shape at the position.

RUNNING BACKS

Sanders appeared virtually unstoppable last year. He won his second NFL rushing title with 1,883 yards, logged 10 games over 100 yards and set a club record with a 237-yard performance against Tampa Bay. That prompted Fontes' memorable line: "God ain't made a better back than Barry Sanders."

STEVE WOLTMANN

BARRY SANDERS

Riddell
20

DETROIT LIONS

The Lions used Derrick Moore and Eric Lynch, both 225-pounders, on short-yardage and goal-line offense. Moore banged in for four TDs. Sanders, however, carried 331 times of a possible 406 rushes, or 81.5 percent. The running game averaged 130.0 yards, up from 121.6 in 1993, when Sanders missed five games. Sanders also reconfirmed his receiving skills, grabbing a career-high 44 passes.

RECEIVERS

The Lions put the ball in the air more often (459 attempts), yet the offense will remain run-oriented as long as Sanders can hit the right holes. Nevertheless, Herman Moore and Brett Perriman proved they can turn a game around with a big catch. Moore, one of the game's great leapers, caught a career-high 72 passes for 1,173 yards and a solid 16.3-yard average. Perriman, six inches shorter at 5–9, grabbed 56 after moving outside when Anthony Carter broke his collarbone.

Third receiver Aubrey Matthews filled in as a spot receiver, producing 29 catches. Larry Ryans is a prospect who underwent midseason knee surgery.

The Lions used veteran tight end Ron Hall as a blocker until he went down in the 15th game with a foot injury. Ty Hallock filled in. Hall, who started six games, caught only 34 passes.

How confident are the Lions in their pass catchers? "The coaches have told the quarterbacks that when it's one-on-one, even if they don't think the receiver is open, to throw the ball anyway," says Moore.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

In past years, the Lions were always plugging and filling, moving oversized guards to tackle and anyone else who could stand to guard. But last year came the miracle of longevity. Tackles Brown and Dave Lutz; guards Shawn Bouwens and Doug Widell, and snapper Kevin Glover didn't miss a start. Bouwens, a free agent, relocated in Jacksonville.

Brown, entering his 11th season, is one of the NFL's best drive blockers and technicians. Inside, Glover is one of the league's most underrated centers. On the right side, Widell, an ex-Packer, and Lutz, a 6–6, 305-pound ex-Kansas City Chief, simply move the pile.

"So goes the offensive line, so goes the team," says Fontes. Or, as Krieg puts it, "There are a lot of offensive weapons on this team, but it all starts with the line."

The blocking unit allowed only 26 sacks, seven under the NFL average. The drive blocking, of course, was superb. Ask Sanders.

Among the backups, Detroit has impressive, if inexperienced, muscle: Mike Compton, 6–6, 297; Scott Conover, 6–4, 285;

HERMAN MOORE

Brown Still Heads Class of '85

Lomas Brown showed up in that memorable 1985 draft. Memorable because five offensive tackles came off the board among the first dozen picks, a classic position run.

And now, 10 years later, Brown may just be the best of them all. Bill Fralic retired last year. Jim Lachey has struggled with injuries. Kevin Allen never made it. Ken Ruettgers is still starting in Green Bay.

But Brown, with 149 starts, is something special as Detroit's left tackle. And maybe, just maybe, this is the year that Brown and the Lions get into the Super Bowl hunt.

"We remember when it was hopeless around here," says Brown. "You fought your opponents and then, during the week, you fought your coaches."

Over Brown's decade as a Lion, he's played for two coaches, Darryl Rogers and Wayne Fontes, and with nine quarterbacks. Ah, but there's been only one Barry Sanders.

Last year, when Sanders flirted with the 2,000-yard barrier (he was 173 yards shy), probably was Brown's best all-around blocking season. He rode speed rushers out of the pocket. He drove bigger defenders out of the hole. And he was a leader with a heart as the Lions led the NFL with an average of 5.1 yards per rush.

"To say I was on the offensive line with the guy from the '90s who went over 2,000 yards, that would have been a great honor and real pleasure," says Brown. "Only so many players get a chance to say that, just like only so many get a chance to go to the Super Bowl."

Brown has climbed to the top of his position with a 1950s work ethic. The key coach in his career was Jerry Wampfler, a tough taskmaster. Wampfler remembers his first meeting with Brown.

Wampfler: "Lomas, I hate to tell you this, but you're making the same errors you made when I coached you in the Senior Bowl.

Brown: "I've been doing it for so long nobody ever made a big deal of it."

Wampfler: "Lomas, what are your goals?"

Brown: "I want to be in the Pro Bowl."

Brown worked long hours on his bad habits, falling for feints and spearing with his helmet on pass protection. One year later, he was in the Pro Bowl, the first of five straight trips.

These have been trying years for Brown. There was the tragic death of guard Eric Andolsek; the spinal cord injury that left guard Mike Utley paralyzed. And the frustration of seven losing seasons.

But last year, it all came together for Brown and his line mates. All five started 16 games. The scuffling play of Shawn Bouwens and Doug Widell, the new guards, made this a very special unit. And, as when Brown broke in, the Lions still have Sanders to run the old 36-37 slant to daylight.

Larry Tharpe, 6–4, 299; and nine-year journeyman Leonard Burton, 6–3, 275, in case Glover goes down, which isn't likely.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Lions invested three high draft picks to build their rushline, then pounced on Minnesota tackle Henry Thomas to anchor the unit. Thomas was well-rewarded with a three-year, $7.35 million pact, the most ever for an interior lineman.

Among past high picks: Nose tackle Marc Spindler was a No. 3 in the 1990 draft that also produced backup Dan Owens (No. 2). Both ends, speed rusher Kelvin Prichett (No. 1 in 1991) and Robert Porcher (No. 1 in 1992), were blue chippers. Spindler, a gifted run-stopper, was inactive for seven games after switching from left end to the nose position and struggling with an ankle injury. Prichett was involved in a lengthy contract dispute and didn't regain his form until midseason. Porcher also struggled after preseason knee surgery. Owens seems to have regressed as a big-play lineman after his solid 1991 season.

In retrospect, the Lions have been shuffling rushline personnel for too many years, mostly out of choice. And if the shuffle continues, look for young Shane Bonham (No. 3 in 1994) to join the mix. Another rookie, fensive tackle Luther Elliss from Utah, the Lions' first-round pick (No. 20 overall) in the 1995 draft, will contend for playing time.

In 1993, the Owens-Spindler-Porcher line totaled 138 tackles and 14½ sacks. Last year, the Porcher-Spindler-Prichett line produced 157 tackles, even though Spindler missed seven games. Clearly, this is an unsettled unit that lacks chemistry and depth.

LINEBACKERS

Nothing is certain in pro football, except that Spielman will lead the Lions in tackles. He did it again last year, piling up a whopping 195 stops, a club record. That made it seven straight titles and four Pro Bowls.

In the middle, Spielman is the heart, soul and forearm of the Lion defense. Broderick Thomas, a six-year veteran, had a spectacular season at left outside linebacker, but he was a free agent and defected to Minnesota.

Ex-Cleveland Browns veteran Mike Johnson was always around the ball, giving the Lions their best inside linebacker play in years. Swilling opened as the weak-side 'backer but lost his job to Scroggins and may have learned a lesson.

"Prove to them that you're still Pat Swilling," Swilling often told himself in those dark days. The Lions, of course, will be waiting for proof. So will Scroggins, who hungry for more with his youth and 4.53 speed.

Of all the young Lion backers, the prospect to watch is young Antonio London, who is very active outside.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Blades bounced back from a severe ankle injury to give the Lions a rousing season. He was in on 90 tackles. The Lion cornerbacks, Robert Massey and young Ryan McNeil, were competent, with Massey, a former Phoenix Cardinal, stealing four passes. Their play would have improved with a stronger pass rush.

Willie "Big-Play" Clay stole the strong safety job in camp, then overachieved during the season, stealing three passes and forcing three fumbles. The Blades-Clay deep combo should give the Lions solid play for another half-dozen years.

Backup safety Harry Colon was lost in the expansion draft. But the Lions like Van Malone (No. 2 in 1994) from Texas, that safety factory, and 5–9 corner Greg Jeffries, who logged a lot of minutes as a nickel back.

KICKING GAME

Punter Greg Montgomery boomed kicks long and pooched them short. He averaged 44.2 yards a punt, third-best mark in the

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Drew Bledsoe -$35
Terry Bradshaw -$45
Jim Brown -$40
Tim Brown -$35
Dick Butkus -$35
Randall Cunningham -$40
Tony Dorsett -$35
John Elway -$45
Boomer Esiason -$35
Marshall Faulk -$35
Brett Favre -$35
Barry Foster -$35
Rodney Hampton -$35
Jeff Hostetler -$30
Michael Irvin -$45
Jim Kelly -$40
Cortez Kennedy -$35
Jack Lambert -$35
Howie Long -$35
Ronnie Lott -$35
Dan Marino -$45
Natrone Means -$35
Eric Metcalf -$35
Rick Mirer -$35
Art Monk -$40
Joe Montana -$60
Warren Moon -$40
Joe Namath -$60
Walter Payton -$45
Jerry Rice -$45
Barry Sanders -$45
Deion Sanders -$40
Gale Sayers -$35
Junior Seau -$35
Sterling Sharpe -$45
Heath Shuler -$35
Phil Simms -$35
O.J. Simpson -$100
Mike Singletary -$35
Bruce Smith -$35
Emmitt Smith -$45
Ken Stabler -$35
Bart Starr -$35
Roger Staubach -$50
Lynn Swann -$35
Fran Tarkenton -$40
Lawrence Taylor -$45
Joe Theisman -$35
Derrick Thomas -$35
Thurman Thomas -$35
Johnny Unitas -$35
Herschel Walker -$30
Ricky Watters -$35
Reggie White -$35
Rod Woodson -$35
Steve Young -$45

Basketball
Charles Barkley -$60
Larry Bird -$70
Patrick Ewing -$45
Anfernee Hardaway -$40
Magic Johnson -$95
Michael Jordan -$150
Shawn Kemp -$40
Reggie Miller -$40
Alonzo Mourning -$40
Hakeem Olajuwon -$40
Shaquille O'Neal -$95
Scottie Pippen -$40
David Robinson -$40
John Starks -$35
John Stockton -$35
Chris Webber -$40

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Muhammed Ali -$65
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Mark Messier -$40
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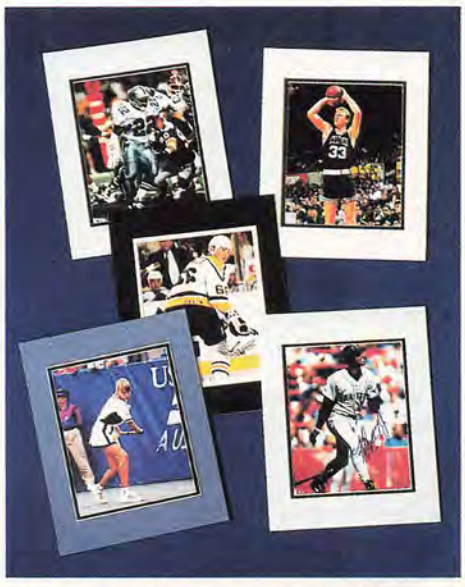

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Jason Hanson hit a slump and had made just seven of 14 field-goal attempts at midseason. He found his rhythm, however, and finished 18-for-27. Hanson missed all five attempts from 50 yards out and hit only five of 13 from 40 yards and farther. Opposing kickoff returners averaged 24.4 yards per runback, a league high, which doesn't say much for Hanson's hang time or distance.

Fleet Mel Gray had another exceptional season. Gray hit all the right lanes, averaging 11.1 yards on punts and 28.4 on kickoffs, three of which he ran back for touchdowns. Those kinds of figures put him in the Pro Bowl for the fourth time.

LIONS ALL-TIME TEAM

Offense

WR	Gail Cogdill (1960-68)
TE	Charlie Sanders (1968-77)
T	Lou Creekmur (1950-59)
G	John Gordy (1957, 1959-67)
C	Alex Wojciechowicz (1938-46)
G	Harley Sewell (1953-62)
T	Lomas Brown (1985-)
WR	Terry Barr (1957-65)
QB	Bobby Layne (1950-58)
RB	Barry Sanders (1989-)
RB	Doak Walker (1950-55)
K	Eddie Murray (1980-91)

Defense

DE	Al Baker (1978-82)
DT	Alex Karras (1958-62, 1964-70)
DT	Roger Brown (1960-66)
DE	Larry Hand (1964-77)
LB	Joe Schmidt (1953-65)
LB	Chris Spielman (1988-)
LB	Wayne Walker (1958-72)
CB	Lem Barney (1967-77)
S	Jack Christiansen (1951-58)
S	Yale Lary (1952-53, 1956-64)
CB	Dick LeBeau (1959-72)
P	Yale Lary (1952-53, 1956-64)

Special Teams - Mel Gray (1989-94)

BUILDING A WINNER

The Lions aren't that far from dominating the NFC Central. It just seems that way because they've been close so many times. Mitchell must provide a consistent passing game, off which Sanders can feed. The other key: an improved rushline that will keep the heat on the quarterback and away from the frazzled secondary.

Some feel the Lions don't work hard enough in camp, resulting in numerous injuries. Fontes is not a driver. Thus, the Lions will survive or fail with his laid-back style.■

ROSTER

HEAD COACH: Wayne Fontes (NFL Record: 52-53-0)
1994 RECORD: 9-7, T 2nd NFC Central

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	EXP.	COLLEGE
48	Beer, Tom	ILB	6-1	237	1	Wayne St.
36	Blades, Bennie	S	6-1	221	7	Miami (Fla.)
96	Bonham, Shane	DL	6-4	260	1	Tennessee
27	Borgella, Jocelyn	CB	5-10	180	1	Cincinnati
75	Brown, Lomas	T	6-4	275	10	Florida
68	Burton, Leonard	C	6-3	275	8	So. Car.
32	Clay, Willie	S	5-9	184	3	Ga. Tech
77	Compton, Mike	C-G	6-6	297	2	W. Va.
76	Conover, Scott	T	6-4	285	4	Purdue
53	Glover, Kevin	C	6-2	282	10	Maryland
89	Hall, Ron	TE	6-4	245	8	Hawaii
49	Hallock, Ty	TE	6-3	249	2	Mich. St.
4	Hanson, Jason	K	5-11	183	3	Wash. St.
99	Hayworth, Tracy	LB	6-3	260	5	Tennessee
82	Holman, Rodney	TE	6-3	238	13	Tulane
25	Jeffries, Greg	CB	5-9	184	2	Virginia
59	Johnson, Mike	ILB	6-1	230	9	Va. Tech
52	Kowalkowski, Scott	ILB	6-2	228	3	Notre Dame
55	London, Antonio	LB	6-2	234	2	Alabama
73	Lutz, David	G-T	6-6	305	12	Ga. Tech
26	Lynch, Eric	RB	5-10	224	2	Gr. Val. St.
	Majkowski, Don	QB	6-3	203	8	Virginia
39	Malone, Van	S	5-11	186	1	Texas
40	Massey, Robert	CB	5-11	195	6	N.C. Cent.
83	Matthews, Aubrey	WR	5-7	165	9	Delta St.
47	McNeil, Ryan	CB	6-2	192	2	Miami (Fla.)
19	Mitchell, Scott	QB	6-6	230	5	Utah
9	Montgomery, Greg	P	6-4	215	6	Mich. St.
84	Moore, Herman	WR	6-3	210	4	Virginia
87	Morton, Johnnie	WR	6-0	190	1	USC
90	Owens, Dan	DL	6-3	280	5	USC
80	Perriman, Brett	WR	5-9	180	7	Miami (Fla.)
91	Porcher, Robert	DE	6-3	283	3	S.C. St.
34	Rivers, Ron	RB	5-8	205	1	Fresno St.
20	Sanders, Barry	RB	5-8	203	6	Okla. St.
97	Scroggins, Tracy	LB	6-2	255	3	Tulsa
62	Semple, Tony	OG	6-4	286	1	Memphis
54	Spielman, Chris	ILB	6-0	247	7	Ohio State
93	Spindler, Marc	NT	6-5	290	5	Pittsburgh
	Thomas, Henry	DT	6-2	280	9	LSU
13	Torretta, Gino	QB	6-2	215	2	Miami (Fla.)
95	Wells, Mike	DE	6-3	287	1	Iowa
67	Widell, Doug	G	6-4	280	6	Bost. Coll.

1995 DRAFT PICKS

ROUND	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	Elliss, Luther	DT	6-6	288	Utah
3	Sloan, David	TE	6-7	250	New Mex.
5	Boyd, Stephen	LB	6-1	235	Bost. Coll.
5	McCorvey, Kez	WR	6-0	185	Fla. State
5	Cherry, Ronald	T	6-4	300	McN'se St.
6	Hickman, Kevin	TE	6-5	251	Navy
6	Schlesinger, Cory	FB	6-0	230	Nebraska
7	Hempstead, Hesley	G	6-1	295	Kansas

1994 WRAP-UP

TEAM DATA

Total Offense:	312.5 yards per game
Total Defense:	338.0 yards per game
Scoring Offense:	22.3 points per game
Scoring Defense:	21.4 points per game

LEADERS

Passing:	Dave Krieg, 131-212-1629-3, 14 TDs
Rushing:	Barry Sanders, 331 att., 1883 yds., 7 TDs
Receiving:	Herman Moore, 72 rec., 1173 yds., 11 TDS
Kicking:	Jason Hanson, 18-27 FGs, 39-40 XP, 93 points
Punting:	Greg Montgomery, 63 punts, 44.2 avg.
Kickoff Returns:	Mel Gray, 45 ret., 28.4 avg., 3 TDs
Punt Returns:	Mel Gray, 21 ret., 11.1 avg.
Tackles:	Chris Spielman, 195, 124 solo
Sacks:	Broderick Thomas, 7
Interceptions:	Robert Massey, 4 for 25 yds.

RESULTS

Atlanta (OT)	31-28	Tampa Bay	14- 9
at Minnesota	3-10	at Chicago	10-20
at Dallas (OT)	20-17	Buffalo	35-21
New England	17-23	Green Bay	34-31
at Tampa Bay	14-24	at N.Y. Jets	18- 7
San Francisco	21-27	Minnesota	41-19
Chicago	21-16	at Miami	20-27
at N.Y. Giants (OT)	28-25	**Playoffs**	
at Green Bay	30-38	at Green Bay	12-16

PROJECTED STARTING LINEUP

OFFENSE

80	BRETT PERRIMAN	XR
83	AUBREY MATTHEWS	WR
75	LOMAS BROWN	LT
77	MIKE COMPTON	LG
53	KEVIN GLOVER	C
67	DOUG WIDELL	RG
76	SCOTT CONOVER	RT
89	RON HALL	TE
84	HERMAN MOORE	ZR
19	SCOTT MITCHELL	QB
20	BARRY SANDERS	RB
4	JASON HANSON	PK

DEFENSE

91	ROBERT PORCHER	LE
	HENRY THOMAS	NT
90	DAN OWENS	RE
97	TRACY SCROGGINS	LOLB
54	CHRIS SPIELMAN	LILB
59	MIKE JOHNSON	RILB
55	ANTONIO LONDON	ROLB
47	RYAN MCNEIL	LCB
40	ROBERT MASSEY	RCB
32	WILLIE CLAY	SS
36	BENNIE BLADES	FS
9	GREG MONTGOMERY	P

Personnel changes made after April 22 may not be reflected.

Information provided by Mike Murray, Media Relations Coordinator.

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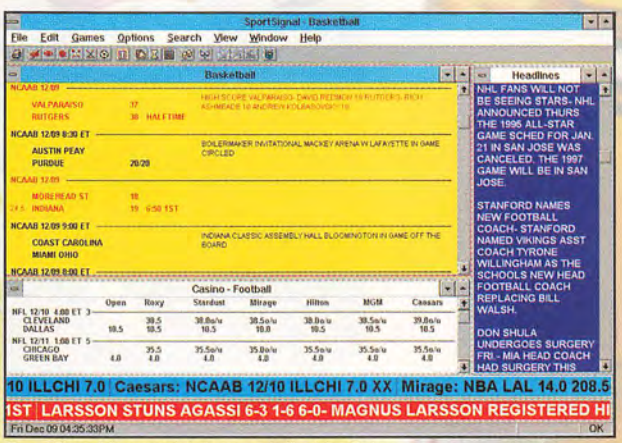
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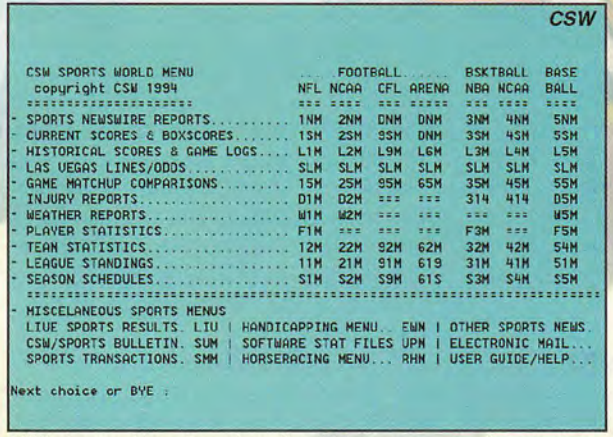
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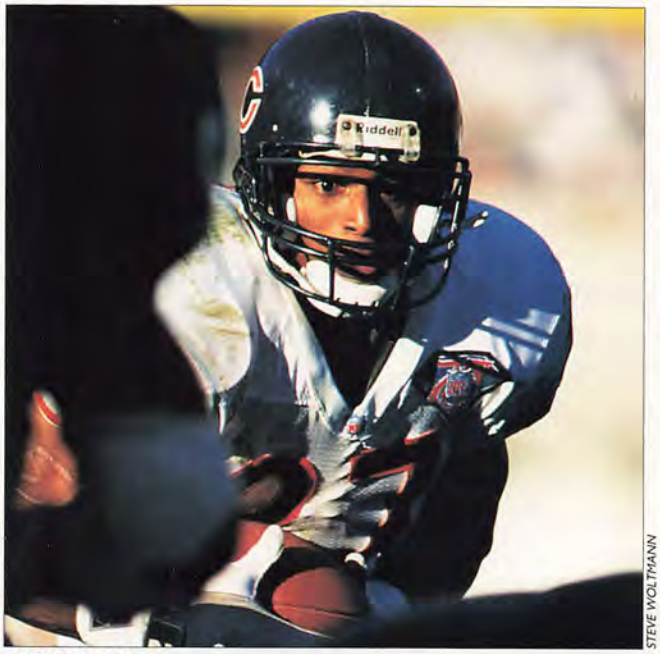
CHICAGO

BEARS

The Chicago Bears are back. They're not up to the level of Mike Ditka's gifted Super Bowl team of a decade ago, of course. But they're clearly better than the punchless Bears of recent years that made an adventure out of crossing midfield.

The 1994 Bears finished 9–7 and jumped on the Minnesota Vikings for a wild-card upset in the playoffs.

Entering coach Dave Wannstedt's third training camp, a highly competitive quarterback battle is about to erupt. Erik Kramer, in the midst of a three-year, $8.1 million pact, started five games but went 1–4. Steve Walsh, signed as Kramer's caddy off the waiver wire, stepped in and led the Bears to the playoffs, winning eight of 11 starts.



STEVE WOLTMANN

LEWIS TILLMAN

The Chicago offense scored more than 21 points only three times. The running game, taken to the heights in the Walter Payton era, flopped, averaging 3.3 yards a carry and 99.3 yards a game. Wannstedt needs more team speed to open up a passing game that averaged only 6.43 yards.

The defense was another story. A blend of youth (Alonzo Spellman, Chris Zorich, Jeremy Lincoln) and experience (Trace Armstrong, Dante Jones, Shaun Gayle), the Bears swarmed and kept swarming. When Jones went down, Joe Cain moved inside and thrived.

QUARTERBACKS

Walsh, whose arm will never be confused with Dan Marino's bazooka, was considered washed up. Chicago was his third team in five years. He had been cut by New Orleans, then signed by the Bears for $600,500, a minuscule percentage of Kramer's whopping salary.

But when the Bears were driving for the playoffs, it was Walsh who led them out of the huddle. The two signal-callers finished with near-identical ratings: Walsh, 77.9 (2,078 yards, 10 TDs, eight interceptions); Kramer, 79.9 (1,129 yards, eight TDs, eight interceptions).

Walsh had his most impressive game of the year in the playoffs, a 35–18 rout of Minnesota. Kramer has more of an NFL foundation and will battle Walsh this summer for the starting job.

RUNNING BACKS

Lewis Tillman, Chicago's featured back, averaged only 3.3 yards behind a solid line. Fullback Raymont Harris, who has decent 4.57 speed, added 464 yards and caught 39 passes. Overall, the Bears finished 19th in first downs by rushing (88).

Wannstedt wants more explosive speed out of the backfield. With that in mind, the Bears took Heisman Trophy winner Rashaan Salaam of Colorado as their first pick in the 1995 draft. Seen as a solid acquisition, Salaam will be a backup for Tillman. Backup Robert Green has shown a quick move to the hole. But he's only 5–8 and seems relegated to a spot role as a runner-receiver.

Merril Hoge, projected as the fullback of the '90s, suffered two concussions within five weeks and retired.

RECEIVERS

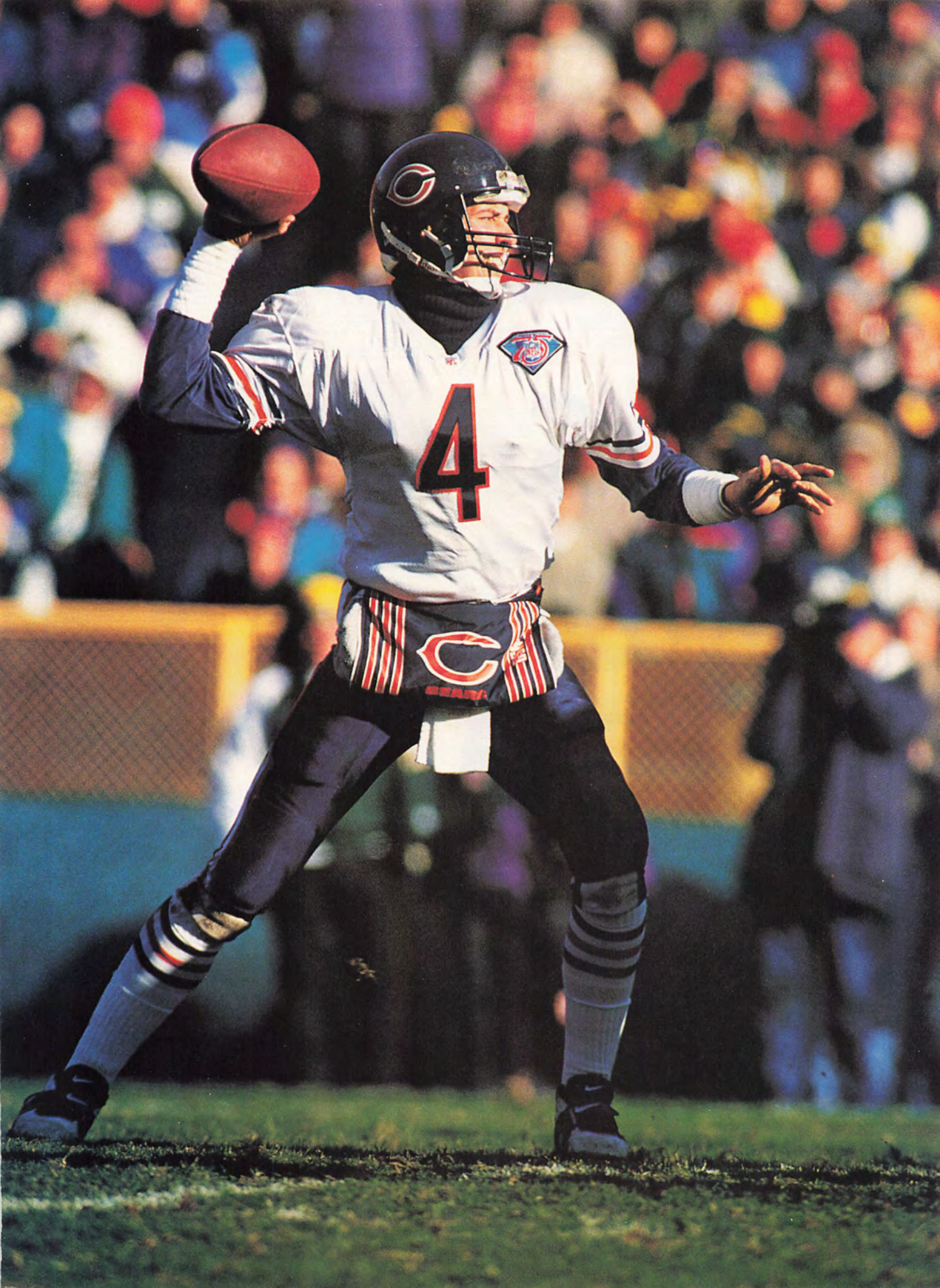
A little pop quiz. Who was the last Bear receiver to play in the Pro Bowl? If you said Dick Gordon in 1972, you win an autographed photo of flanker Johnny Morris, who made it in 1961.

Chicago's receivers typically don't overwhelm a defense. Rather, they come and go on the Soldier Field stage. Jeff Graham led the Bears with 68 catches, followed by Curtis Conway, a No. 1 pick in 1993, who grabbed 39. Tom Waddle was the team's best pure receiver, but he left for Cincinnati as a free agent. Greg McMurtry could help. But the Bears will definitely be looking to former New England Patriots wideout Michael Timpson, who came aboard toting a 3-year, $4.5 million contract as an unrestricted free agent.

Chicago is also in the market for more tight end help. Six-year veteran Marv Cook is gone. Young Ryan Wetnight, a free agent find, has promise. Third-stringer Keith

DAVID STLUKA

STEVE WALSH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Cowboys	88 Irvin	Steelers	29 Foster
Cowboys	22 Smith	Steelers	95 Lloyd
Cowboys	48 Johnston	Steelers	91 Greene
Cowboys	84 Novacek	Steelers	14 O'Donnell
Broncos	7 Elway	Chiefs	58 Thomas
Broncos	84 Sharpe	Chiefs	19 Montana
Broncos	27 Atwater	Chiefs	13 Bono
Broncos	92 Perry	Chiefs	32 Allen
Bills	12 Kelly	Chiefs	29 Hill
Bills	78 B. Smith	Chiefs	90 Smith
Bills	83 Reed	Lions	20 B. Sanders
Bills	34 Thomas	Lions	84 Moore
Dolphins	13 Marino	Chargers	55 Seau
Dolphins	51 Cox	Chargers	20 Means
Dolphins	86 E. Green	Chargers	12 Humphries
Dolphins	80 Fryar	Patriots	11 Bledsoe
Eagles	12 Cunningham	Patriots	87 Coates
Eagles	20 Waters	Patriots	55 McGinest
Eagles	86 Barnett	Patriots	44 Butts
Eagles	20 Waters	Patriots	83 Timpson
Redskins	80 Howard	Patriots	82 Brisby
Redskins	5 Shuler	Cardinals	96 Simmons
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Jets	39 Johnson	Seahawks	3 Mirer
Bears	80 Conway	Seahawks	89 Blades
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Bears	★ Salaam	Bucs	12 Differ
Bears	93 Armstrong	Bucs	★ D. Brooks
Giants	56 Taylor	Bucs	★ Sapp
Giants	★ Wheatley	Bucs	32 Rhett
Giants	17 Brown	Bengals	99 Wilkinson
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Suns	7 Johnson	Sonics	40 Kemp
Suns	9 Majerle	Sonics	20 Payton
Suns	15 Manning	Sonics	11 Schrempf
Blazers	1 Strickland	Bullets	5 Howard
Blazers	3 Robinson	Bullets	2 Webber
Heat	3 Smith	Nuggets	55 Mutombo
Heat	4 Miner	Nuggets	5 Rose
Heat	41 Rice	Nuggets	20 Ellis
Spurs	50 Robinson	Nuggets	1 Abdul-Rauf
Spurs	10 Rodman	Knicks	33 Ewing
Spurs	32 Elliot	Knicks	3 Starks
Hornets	1 Bogues★	Cavs	25 Price
Hornets	2 Johnson★	T'wolves	32 Laettner
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Jazz	12 Stockton	Kings	7 Hurley
Jazz	32 Malone	Kings	2 Richmond
Bulls	45 Jordan	Pacers	31 Miller
Bulls	33 Pippen	Hawks	2 Augmon
Lakers	32 Johnson	Mavs	32 Mashburn
Lakers	9 Van Exel	Mavs	24 Jackson
Lakers	23 Ceballos	Mavs	5 Kidd
Lakers	25 Jones	Rockets	34 Olajuwon
Magic	25 Anderson	Rockets	10 Cassell
Magic	1 Hardaway★	Rockets	22 Drexler
Magic	32 O'Neal★	Sixers	35 Weatherspoon
Magic	3 Scott	Bucks	13 Robinson
Nets	44 Coleman	Pistons	33 Hill★
Nets	7 Anderson		

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CHICAGO BEARS

Jennings has impressive size (6–4, 270) but is strictly a blocker type.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Bears are reshaping their offensive line with some eye-catching physical specimens. There's Andy Heck (6–6, 296) at left tackle. And James "Big Cat" Williams (6–7, 335), who went undrafted in 1991 as a defensive lineman, at right tackle. Jerry Fontenot really came on as an anchoring center, and Jay Leeuwenburg, who has done the Bears shuffle in past years, earned the right guard slot. Mark Bortz, the last of the Super Bowl blockers, retired, leaving left guard open for 310-pound Todd Perry.

Backup tackle Troy Auzenne (6–7, 300) can play both sides.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Wannstedt has tried to build a rushline with the same quick, penetrating athletes he coached in Dallas. Left end Trace Armstrong is in that mold, but he was traded to Miami for first- and second-round draft picks. Chris Zorich, the 277-pound tackle, is the equivalent of Russell Maryland. Alonzo Spellman, the pass-rushing end, is a veritable Charles Haley.

"We want playmakers who can move," says Wannstedt, whose defense ranked 13th overall in the league last year, and fifth against the pass. Zorich played terrific run defense (104 tackles) and added 5½ sacks. Add Spellman's seven takedowns and the No. 1 rushline had 24 sacks.

The fourth rusher, Albert Fontenot, moved inside to left tackle and showed considerable promise. The line, though light, is Wannstedt's type. So are John Thierry (260), who will start at left end in place of the departed Armstrong, and Carl Simpson (285) and Jim Flanigan (280).

LINEBACKERS

Linebacker Joe Cain cost the Bears a mere eighth-round pick as a Seattle free agent two years ago. He responded with a career season: a club-high 129 tackles. More importantly, when middle linebacker Dante Jones (108 hits) went down, Cain shifted inside without losing a thing.

Wannstedt traded for strong-side linebacker Vinson Smith, who can move and knows how to shed blockers. Dependable Ron Cox can still run, but sizable blockers give him trouble. Barry Minter came over in the Smith trade and will be the starter in the middle. With 4.54 speed, Minter could be the fastest linebacker in Bears history.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Mark Carrier and Shaun Gayle gave Chicago another terrific year as Wannstedt's safety combo. Carrier, the free safety, should have made the Pro Bowl. Gayle is gone, a free agent departure to San Diego after 10 strong years in Chicago.

Left corner Donnell Woolford had an off year against the run, but he stole five passes and defensed 21 more. Woolford is regarded as a solid cover man. Right cornerback Jeremy Lincoln jumped to the starting unit and did a respectable job.

The Bears stole only a dozen passes, but the starting secondary has talent. Behind it, Chicago is thin. The Bears signed strong

Zorich Nonstop As a Player And Humanitarian

At 5–11⅞, Chris Zorich was the shortest defensive tackle invited to the Indianapolis scouting combine in 1991. So it figured that when the Chicago Bears took the compact, sub-six-footer in the second round, there were laughs and raised eyebrowns in war rooms around the NFL.

Four years later, however, Zorich is laughing, all the way to the bank, as they say. Last season, hitting the gaps in coach Dave Wannstedt's 4–3 defense, Zorich totaled 104 tackles and 5½ sacks. That kind of production gained Zorich a three-year, $4.85 million free-agent contract ($3.36 million in present value) from Bears management.

"He's always been involved in every aspect of the game, whether it's the pass, run, or hustling downfield on screen passes and hook routes," says defensive coordinator Bob Slowik. "He's all over the place." And Zorich's size? "He's big enough for us."

Zorich, who grew up on Chicago's South Side in a struggling single-parent family, is the ultimate team player. "I come from a background where a lot depends on you," he says.

The needy in Zorich's old neighborhood would agree unanimously. After all, this is a Chicago-born, Chicago-bred athlete with a heart bigger than Soldier Field. Among the Chris Zorich charities:

- The Christopher Zorich Foundation. Zorich invites 15 children from eight orphanages to be his guests at Bear home games.
- The Notre Dame scholarship fund. Zorich contributes $97 (he wears jersey No. 97) for every tackle/sack he makes.
- Thanksgiving drive. Each Thanksgiving, Zorich delivers baskets of food to 197 needy families in his old neighborhood.

"I've been poor," Zorich says. "And I guarantee you I'm going to die a normal guy because I'm going to help as many people as I can. I've spent all my life in Chicago, and I was on the receiving end of a lot of programs. When you're 11 years old, standing in line in the cold and waiting for somebody to give you food from one of those food pantries, it really affects you."

On and off the field, Zorich has gotten it done for the Bears.

ALONZO SPELLMAN

DAVID DUROCHIK

safety Marty Carter, a free agent from Tampa Bay, to a four-year, $5.2 million contract. Carter had 93 tackles but no interceptions for the Buccaneers last season.

KICKING GAME

Specialists Chris Gardocki and Kevin Butler didn't exactly thrill Chicago coaches. Gardocki has moved on to Indianapolis as a free agent. Butler made 21 of 29 field goals but missed five under 46 yards.

Using new return sprinters, Chicago averaged 8.1 yards on punts and 21.2 yards on kickoffs. Conway, who averaged 25 yards on kickoff returns, will again handle that job. Graham will be the primary punt returner.

BEARS ALL-TIME TEAM

Offense

WR	Ken Kavanaugh (1940-41, 1945-50)
TE	Mike Ditka (1961-66)
T	Joe Stydahar (1936-46)
G	Stan Jones (1954-65)
C	Clyde "Bulldog" Turner (1940-52)
G	Dan Fortmann (1936-43)
T	George Connor (1948-55)
WR	Harlon Hill (1954-61)
QB	Sid Luckman (1939-50)
RB	Walter Payton (1975-87)
RB	Bronko Nagurski (1930-37, 1943)
K	Kevin Butler (1985-)

Defense

DE	Doug Atkins (1955-66)
DT	Dan Hampton (1979-90)
DT	Fred Williams (1952-63)
DE	Richard Dent (1983-93)
LB	Dick Butkus (1965-73)
LB	Bill George (1952-65)
LB	Mike Singletary (1981-92)
CB	J.C. Caroline (1956-65)
S	Gary Fencik (1976-87)
S	Richie Petitbon (1959-68)
CB	Bennie McRae (1962-70)
P	Bobby Joe Green (1962-73)

Special Teams - George McAfee (1940-41, 45-50)

Chicago drafted West Virginia punter Todd Sauerbrun in the second round. Sauerbrun will battle Mitch Berger for the punting job.

BUILDING A WINNER

Wannstedt faces some Bear-sized problems. This team needs more gap discipline on defense to jam up the run (opposing teams averaged 120.1 yards per game); a more forceful pass rush (the Bears totaled just 28 sacks); stronger rushing in a running division (Chicago averaged less than 100 yards per game); and quarterback stability.

The Bears will continue to play strong defense, but additional offensive speed is required if they are to avoid a struggle each week. ■

ROSTER

HEAD COACH: Dave Wannstedt (NFL Record: 17-17)
1994 RECORD: 9-7, T 2nd NFC Central

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	EXP.	COLLEGE
72	Adams, Scott	OL	6-5	293	5	Georgia
70	Auzenne, Troy	T	6-7	300	3	California
91	Baker, Myron	LB	6-1	228	2	La. Tech
52	Bass, Robert	MLB	6-1	239	1	Miami (Fla.)
	Berger, Mitch	P	6-2	231	2	Colorado
63	Burger, Todd	G	6-3	296	1	Penn State
35	Burton, James	CB	5-9	181	1	Fresno St.
6	Butler, Kevin	K	6-1	205	10	Georgia
59	Cain, Joe	LB	6-1	237	6	Oregon Tech
20	Carrier, Mark	S	6-1	190	5	USC
23	Carter, Marty	S	6-1	200	6	Mid-TN St.
30	Carter, Tony	FB	5-11	216	1	Minnesota
43	Cobb, Trevor	RB	5-9	209	2	Rice
93	Collier, Ervin	DT	6-3	287	1	Fla. A&M
80	Conway, Curtis	WR-KR	6-0	193	2	USC
54	Cox, Ron	LB	6-2	235	5	Fresno St.
99	Flanigan, Jim	DT	6-2	280	1	Notre Dame
96	Fontenot, Albert	DE	6-4	272	2	Baylor
67	Fontenot, Jerry	C-G	6-3	285	6	Baylor
84	Gedney, Chris	TE	6-5	265	2	Syracuse
81	Graham, Jeff	WR	6-2	196	4	Ohio State
22	Green, Robert	RB	5-8	212	3	Will. & Mary
29	Harris, Raymont	RB	6-0	225	1	Ohio State
74	Hawkins, Garland	DE	6-3	253	1	Syracuse
64	Heck, Andy	T	6-6	296	6	Notre Dame
60	Ireland, Darwin	LB	5-11	240	1	Arkansas
85	Jennings, Keith	TE	6-4	270	5	Clemson
25	Johnson, Anthony	RB	6-0	232	6	Notre Dame
32	Joseph, Dwayne	CB	5-9	188	1	Syracuse
73	Kmet, Frank	G	6-3	294	1	Purdue
12	Kramer, Erik	QB	6-1	200	5	N.C. State
58	Leeuwenburg, Jay	OL	6-3	290	3	Colorado
39	Lincoln, Jeremy	CB	5-10	180	3	Tennessee
26	Mangum, John	S	5-10	192	5	Alabama
36	Marshall, Anthony	S	6-1	205	1	LSU
9	Matthews, Shane	QB	6-3	196	2	Florida
88	McMurtry, Greg	WR	6-2	210	5	Michigan
24	Miniefield, Kevin	DB	5-9	180	2	Ariz. St.
92	Minter, Barry	LB	6-2	239	2	Tulsa
83	Obee, Terry	WR	5-10	189	2	Oregon
75	Perry, Todd	G	6-5	310	2	Kentucky
18	Primus, Greg	WR	5-11	190	1	Colo. St.
19	Shedd, Kenny	WR	5-9	171	1	N. Iowa
98	Simpson, Carl	DT	6-2	285	2	Fla. State
55	Smith, Vinson	LB	6-2	247	7	E. Car.
76	Spears, Marcus	T	6-4	300	1	NW La.
90	Spellman, Alonzo	DE	6-4	285	3	Ohio St.
94	Thierry, John	DE	6-4	260	1	Alcorn St.
33	Thompson, Darrell	RB	6-1	217	6	Minnesota
27	Tillman, Lewis	RB	6-0	204	6	Jackson St.
86	Timpson, Michael	WR	6-10	180	7	Penn State
44	Walker, Cedric	S	6-0	205	1	S.F. Austin
4	Walsh, Steve	QB	6-3	200	6	Miami (Fla.)
89	Wetnight, Ryan	TE	6-2	235	2	Stanford
71	Williams, James	T	6-7	335	4	Cheyney St.
21	Woolford, Donnell	CB	5-9	188	6	Clemson
38	Worley, Tim	RB	6-2	228	5	Georgia
97	Zorich, Chris	DT	6-1	277	4	Notre Dame

1995 DRAFT PICKS

ROUND	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	Salaam, Rashaan	RB	6-1	228	Colorado
2	Riley, Patrick	DE	6-5	277	Miami (FL)
2	Sauerbrun, Todd	P	5-10	200	West Virginia
3	Harris, Sean	LB	6-3	244	Arizona
3	Pilgram, Evan	OG	6-4	298	BYU
4	Jackson, Jack	WR	5-8	171	Florida
6	Gales, Kenny	CB	5-11	173	Wisconsin
6	Reeves, Carl	DE	6-5	228	N.C. State
7	Cox, Jamal	LB	6-2	237	Georgia Tech

1994 WRAP-UP

TEAM DATA

Total Offense:	292.4 yards per game
Total Defense:	313.1 yards per game
Scoring Offense:	16.9 points per game
Scoring Defense:	19.2 points per game

LEADERS

Passing:	Steve Walsh, 208-343-2078-8, 10 TDs
Rushing:	Lewis Tillman, 275 att., 899 yds., 7 TDs
Receiving:	Jeff Graham, 68 rec., 944 yds., 4 TDS
Kicking:	Kevin Butler, 21-29 FGs, 24-24 XP, 87 points
Punting:	Chris Gardocki, 76 punts, 37.8 avg.
Kickoff Returns:	Nate Lewis, 35 ret., 25.0 avg.
Punt Returns:	Jeff Graham, 15 ret., 9.3 avg., 1 TD
Tackles:	Joe Cain, 129, 83 solo
Sacks:	Trace Armstrong, 7.5
Interceptions:	Donnell Woolford, 5 for 30 yds.

RESULTS

Tampa Bay	21- 9	Detroit	20-10
at Philadelphia	22-30	at Arizona (OT)	19-16
Minnesota	14-42	at Minnesota (OT)	27-33
at N.Y. Jets	19- 7	at Green Bay	3-40
Buffalo	20-13	L.A. Rams	27-13
New Orleans	17- 7	New England	3-13
at Detroit	16-21	**Playoffs**	
at Tampa Bay	20- 6	at Minnesota	35-18
at Miami	17-14	at San Francisco	15-44

PROJECTED STARTING LINEUP

OFFENSE

81	JEFF GRAHAM	WR
64	ANDY HECK	LT
75	TODD PERRY	LG
67	JERRY FONTENOT	C
58	JAY LEEUWENBURG	RG
71	JAMES WILLIAMS	RT
89	RYAN WETNIGHT	TE
86	MICHAEL TIMPSON	WR
4	STEVE WALSH	QB
29	RAYMONT HARRIS	RB
27	LEWIS TILLMAN	RB
6	KEVIN BUTLER	K

DEFENSE

90	ALONZO SPELLMAN	DE
97	CHRIS ZORICH	RT
98	CARL SIMPSON	LT
94	JOHN THIERRY	LE
59	JOE CAIN	WILL
92	BARRY MINTER	MIKE
55	VINSON SMITH	SAM
39	JEREMY LINCOLN	RCB
21	DONNELL WOOLFORD	LCB
23	MARTY CARTER	SS
20	MARK CARRIER	FS
	TODD SAUERBRUN	P

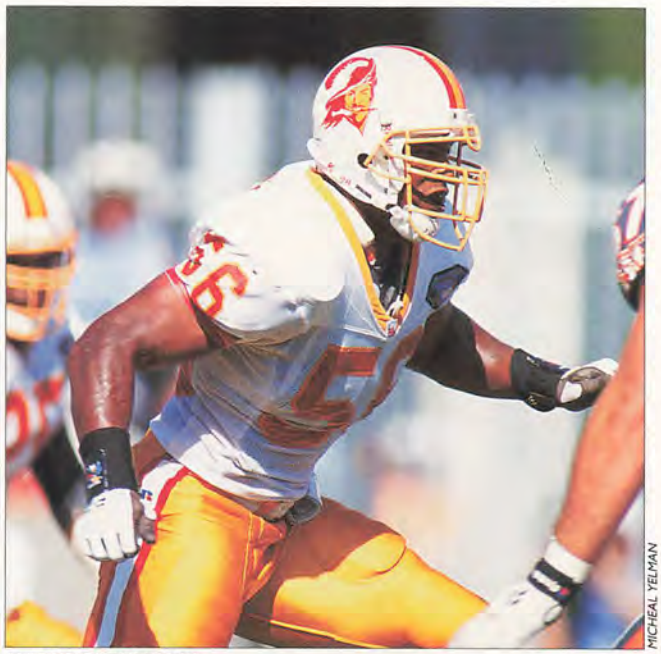
Personnel changes made after April 22 may not be reflected.

Information provided by Bryan Harlan, Director of Public Relations.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

Malcolm Glazer, a Palm Beach financier, bought the dreadful Tampa Bay Buccaneers for a not-so-dreadful price of $192 million. Sam Wyche was rehired as coach by a three-man trust overseeing the disposal of a team founded by the late Hugh Culverhouse Sr. On the playing field, Errict Rhett rushed for 1,011 yards, only the fourth 1,000-yard back in club history.

So much for the highlights of another distinctly low-light season in which the Bucs extended their double-digit losing streak to 12 straight years. The Bucs were 20th on offense (251 points, 297.1 yards per game) and 21st on defense, giving up 40 touchdowns, 25 by passes. Their interception (nine) and sack (20) totals had a lot to do with the firing of defensive coordinator Floyd Peters. His replacement, Rusty Tillman, plans to junk the Bucs' 4–2–5 scheme and play a tough brand of 4–3 defense.



MICHEAL YELMAN

HARDY NICKERSON

Schemes aside, the lowly Bucs must become a major player in the free-agent market to move up in the NFC Central, a division of active talent-seekers.

Despite Wyche's reputation as a brilliant field coach, the Bucs simply couldn't score. Craig Erickson passed for only 16 TDs in 14 starts. Young Trent Dilfer, the quarterback of the future, started twice and lost twice.

The switch to a 4–3 will force the Bucs to upgrade their outside linebacker talent. They also need two defensive linemen, including a pass rusher. However, they did get a big-name wideout to take the heat off Lawrence Dawsey and Courtney Hawkins.

Meanwhile, the Bucs look forward to a future under Malcolm Glazer. They do have a future, don't they? Sure, they play both expansion teams this season.

QUARTERBACKS

Erickson was 11–18 as a starter with a weak offense and was traded to Indianapolis for a draft pick. Wyche undoubtedly is convinced Dilfer is ready, but the talent around him, excluding Rhett and a few linemen, is suspect.

Dilfer, the sixth pick overall in the 1994 draft, signed an eight-year, $16.5 million contract with a 1995 cap figure of $1.562 million. He has a lively arm but needs work on reading NFL defenses.

RUNNING BACKS

The Bucs have made a habit of drafting runners with big college numbers. They finally hit last year with Rhett, who almost matched his Florida numbers with a 1,011-yard rookie season. Rhett, a 4.5 back, showed great leverage and toughness, plus an ability to slip tackles.

Anthony McDowell, a 240-pound load, served as Rhett's lead blocker. Six-year vet Vince Workman, the oldest back on the roster, actually started eight games, softening up the defense for Rhett, who took over the spot in the ninth game.

McDowell, an 11-game starter at fullback, was also the fourth-leading receiver. Backup Rudy Harris, is the biggest fullback in Bucs history, tipping 257. Tampa Bay must get more speed out of the backfield to keep linebackers from cheating for the run against Rhett.

RECEIVERS

The Bucs' passing game got a big lift with the signing of unrestricted free-agent receiver Alvin Harper to a four-year, $10.6 million contract. In his four seasons with Dallas, Harper established himself as one of the NFL's best yards-per-catch receivers in history, averaging 20 yards.

Injury-troubled Dawsey caught just 46 passes, only one for a touchdown. He had an excuse after coming off knee surgery and playing in only 10 games. Yet, Hawkins, a 5–9 split end, caught only 37 after his big 62-catch season in 1993.

The real puzzle is Horace Copeland, who fell to a backup role despite 4.41 speed and great leaping ability.

Jackie Harris turned the tight end spot into a pass-catching role. The ex-Packer got off to a solid start but underwent left shoulder surgery after the ninth game. The Bucs saw

DAVID STLUKA

ERRICT RHETT

Riddell
22

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

enough of him to feel good about their tight end spot. Tyji Armstrong is strictly a blocker a la Ron Hall, a great ex-Buc tight end.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Tampa Bay's blocking unit wasn't bad, allowing only 30 sacks in 521 pass calls. Paul Gruber was special as the Bucs' $9.55 million left tackle and dominated every pass rusher he faced.

Guard Ian Beckles gave the team another solid run-blocking season. Snapper Tony Mayberry appeared to have overcome back problems. Scott Dill, who started the first six games at left guard, wound up at tackle, and Charles McRae took over at guard

The Bucs can flaunt their size: seven linemen weighing 292 pounds or more and a starting unit averaging 297.3. But they need more quickness off the ball and more depth. The Bucs held back $4 million of cap money last year in case of injuries. They should have spent it on blockers.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Amazingly, not a single Tampa Bay lineman has logged more than three NFL years. Eric Curry, the pass-rushing right end, has star potential, but he's missed eight starts in two years. Strong-side end Chidi Ahanotu, a former sixth-round pick, showed quickness and hustle but will be replaced by No. 1 pick Warren Sapp out of Miami. Sapp, a big-time player, slipped to the twelfth pick amid rumors of positive drug tests. Brad Culpepper and Mark Wheeler gave everything they had to give, which might not be enough.

The rushline was simply overpowered in too many games. And when inside linebacker Hardy Nickerson went down for two weeks, the unit struggled even more. Santana Dotson, who had a storybook rookie season (10 sacks, 11 tackles for losses) shuffled between tackle and end, and never found his form.

LINEBACKERS

Nickerson, a relentless hitter, remains the unit leader in his prime years. Lonnie Marts, considered expendable by Kansas City, had a solid year on the left side in the 4–2–5 scheme but seemed to fade in the final month.

Barney Bussey, a journeyman safety, filled a combo safety-linebacker role in an up-and-down season. Two young linebackers, Demetrius DuBose and John Lynch (actually another safety-'backer), weren't good enough to crack the starting lineup, although DuBose spelled Nickerson for one game.

The Brady Bunch, Jeff and 11-year long snapper Ed, provided minimal depth. Jeff, a four-year vet, supplied some active special teams minutes. The switch to a pure 4–3 will have enormous ramifications on the linebacking corps, with only Nickerson secure in the middle.

ALVIN HARPER

PETER BROUILLET

Run Hard, Talk Crazy: Just Rhett's Style

Eight games into the 1994 season, the struggling Tampa Bay Buccaneers were averaging 4.8 rushing first downs and 78.3 yards rushing.

Thrust into the starting lineup in the ninth game, Errict Rhett then exploded for 728 yards, becoming only the fourth back in club history to top 1,000 yards in a season.

Exceptionally strong, with 4.55 speed, Rhett appeared a natural to upgrade Tampa Bay's running game that ranked 27th (80.6 yards per game, 3.2 average per rush). Yet, the Bucs played it cozy, waiting until a 2–6 start to move Rhett ahead of Vince Workman.

"Some will argue that we should have had him in there earlier," backfield coach Willie Peete says. "But he's a better football player because we had a little patience with him. In college, basically what he did was run the draw and catch those little check-down passes. But in our system, he had to go where the linemen were and follow the blocks. He also had to learn our codes."

Rhett put up some terrific numbers at Florida: 4,163 yards rushing; 153 receptions for 1,238 yards.

Tampa Bay fullback Anthony McDowell thinks Rhett's fast-talking style helps the team. "It sounds like before a gang fight, when you're talking a lot of smack," McDowell says. "A lot of stuff he says doesn't make no sense. But to see him running hard, having fun and talking crazy, it brings everybody up."

"I look for results every practice," Rhett says. "I push myself. I expect big things to happen, then I get frustrated sometimes when big things don't happen.

"I love this game. I love to block. I love to practice. I love to carry the ball and to catch it. Even be a decoy. I love to hit and be hit. Those big blitzing linebackers don't bother me."

DEFENSIVE BACKS

The Bucs' secondary was built with imports. Left corner Martin Mayhew is an ex-Washington Redskin. Right corner Charles Dimry is an ex-Denver Bronco. And the best of the unit, free safety Thomas Everett, was obtained in a trade with Dallas. An expensive trade, too, costing the team $3.2 million. New safety Kenneth Gant was signed as a free agent, before Tony Covington escaped to Seattle.

In the books, the secondary had a dreadful season: nine interceptions, 25 touchdown passes. But without a legitimate pass rush, the backpedalers were at the mercy of opposing quarterbacks, who completed 60.8 percent of their attempts for 3,486 yards.

Tampa Bay gave up an average of 7.0

yards per attempt. Three years ago, it was 7.36, when the Bucs stole 20 passes and had 36 sacks. Behind the numbers is a secondary that needs more pressure from the upfront rushliners to play its game.

KICKING GAME

Dan Stryzinski is out; Reggie Roby and his powerful foot are in. The Bucs switched punters, signing ex-Redskin Roby as a free agent. Roby comes off an exceptional year in which he averaged 44.4 yards, second-best in the NFL.

Kicker Michael Husted was 23-for-35, often failing to deliver the 40-yarder so necessary with a struggling team.

Vernon Turner provided some impressive return work, but he left for Carolina. To replace him, free agent Clarence Verdin was signed from Atlanta to return both kickoffs and punts.

BUCCANEERS ALL-TIME TEAM

Offense

WR	Kevin House (1980-86)
TE	Jimmie Giles (1978-86)
T	Paul Gruber (1988-)
G	Steve Wilson (1976-85)
C	Randy Grimes (1983-92)
G	George Yarno (1979-83, 1985-87)
T	Dave Reavis (1976-83)
WR	Mark Carrier (1987-92)
QB	Doug Williams (1978-82)
RB	Ricky Bell (1977-81)
RB	James Wilder (1981-89)
K	Donald Igwebuike (1985-89)

Defense

DE	Lee Roy Selmon (1976-84)
NT	David Logan (1979-86)
DE	John Cannon (1982-90)
LB	Hugh Green (1981-85)
LB	Richard Wood (1976-84)
LB	Cecil Johnson (1977-85)
LB	Scot Brantley (1980-87)
CB	Mike Washington (1976-84)
S	Cedric Brown (1976-84)
S	Mark Cotney (1976-80, 1982-84)
CB	Ricky Reynolds (1987-93)
P	Frank Garcia (1983-87)

Special Teams - Jim Obradovich (1978-83)

BUILDING A WINNER

The franchise is under new ownership and soon will be led by a new quarterback. The Bucs have a laundry list of challenges, not all of them on the field.

Glazer must toss his checkbook onto the table and bring in more line help and speed. Then, the scouting office needs beefing up. The facilities need upgrading to an NFL level.

Wyche promised the playoffs a year ago, an empty promise as it turned out. ■

ROSTER

HEAD COACH: Sam Wyche (NFL Record: 80-100)
1994 RECORD: 6-10, 5th NFC Central

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	EXP.	COLLEGE
72	Ahanotu, Chidi	DT	6-2	288	2	California
86	Armstrong, Tyji	TE	6-4	262	3	Mississippi
62	Beckles, Ian	G	6-1	304	5	Indiana
89	Bishop, Harold	TE	6-4	254	1	LSU
53	Brady, Ed	LB	6-2	238	11	Illinois
28	Buckley, Curtis	S	6-0	191	2	E. Tex. St.
27	Bussey, Barney	S	6-0	215	9	S.C. St.
88	Copeland, Horace	WR	6-2	198	2	Miami (Fla.)
73	Culpepper, Brad	DT	6-1	270	3	Florida
75	Curry, Eric	DE	6-5	270	2	Alabama
	Davis, Tyree	WR	5-9	175	1	C. Ark.
80	Dawsey, Lawrence	WR	6-0	192	4	Fla. State
12	Dilfer, Trent	QB	6-4	235	1	Fresno St.
76	Dill, Scott	G-T	6-5	295	7	Memphis
39	Dimry, Charles	CB	6-0	176	7	UNLV
71	Dotson, Santana	DE	6-5	276	3	Baylor
93	DuBose, Demetrius	LB	6-1	240	2	Notre Dame
7	Erickson, Craig	QB	6-2	212	3	Miami (Fla.)
22	Everett, Thomas	S	5-9	190	8	Baylor
29	Gant, Kenneth	S	5-11	196	5	Albany St.
74	Gruber, Paul	T	6-5	296	7	Wisconsin
82	Harper, Alvin	WR	6-3	208	4	Tennessee
81	Harris, Jackie	TE	6-4	248	5	NE Louisiana
43	Harris, Rudy	FB	6-1	257	2	Clemson
85	Hawkins, Courtney	WR	5-9	183	3	Michigan St.
5	Husted, Michael	PK	6-0	188	2	Virginia
90	Jones, Milton	DE	6-5	270	R	Central St. (OH)
79	Love, Sean	G	6-3	300	2	Penn State
47	Lynch, John	S	6-2	216	2	Stanford
55	Marts, Lonnie	LB	6-1	236	5	Tulane
61	Mayberry, Tony	C	6-4	292	5	Wk. Forest
35	Mayhew, Martin	CB	5-8	178	7	Fla. State
33	McDowell, Anthony	FB	5-11	240	3	Texas Tech
21	McGruder, Mike	CB	5-10	182	5	Kent
94	McIntosh, Toddrick	DE	6-3	277	1	Fla. State
70	McRae, Charles	T-G	6-7	306	4	Tennessee
83	Moore, Dave	TE	6-2	248	2	Pittsburgh
56	Nickerson, Hardy	LB	6-2	228	8	California
69	Pierson, Pete	T	6-5	295	R	Washington
95	Powe, Keith	DE	6-3	265	1	UTEP
60	Pyne, Jim	C	6-2	282	1	Va. Tech
32	Rhett, Errict	RB	5-11	211	1	Florida
1	Roby, Reggie	P	6-2	260	13	Iowa
67	Sullivan, Mike	G-T	6-3	292	3	Miami (Fla.)
87	Thomas, Lamar	WR	6-1	163	2	Miami (Fla.)
19	Verdin, Clarence	KR	5-8	162		SW La.
11	Weldon, Casey	QB	6-1	206	3	Fla. State
77	Wheeler, Mark	DT	6-2	285	3	Texas A&M
84	Wilson, Charles	WR	5-10	185	4	Memphis
46	Workman, Vince	RB	5-10	205	6	Ohio State

1995 DRAFT PICKS

ROUND	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	Sapp, Warren	DT	6-1	281	Miami (Fla.)
1	Brooks, Derrick	LB	6-0	229	Fla.St.
2	Johnson, Melvin	S	6-0	195	Kentucky
4	Wilson, Jerry	CB	5-10	184	Southern
5	Abraham, Clifton	CB	5-9	184	Fla. St.
6	Rouse, Wardell	LB	6-2	231	Clemson
7	Ingram, Steve	G-T	6-4	311	Maryland
7	Rodgers, Jeffrey	DE	6-3	273	Tex. A&M-King.

1994 WRAP-UP

TEAM DATA

Total Offense:	297.1 yards per game
Total Defense:	333.5 yards per game
Scoring Offense:	15.7 points per game
Scoring Defense:	21.9 points per game

LEADERS

Passing:	Craig Erickson, 225-399-2919-10, 16 TDs
Rushing:	Errict Rhett, 284 att., 1011 yds., 7 TDs
Receiving:	Lawrence Dawsey, 46 rec., 673 yds., 1 TD
Kicking:	Michael Husted, 23-35 FGs, 20-20 XP, 89 points
Punting:	Dan Stryzinski, 72 punts, 38.9 avg.
Kickoff Returns:	Vernon Turner, 43 ret., 20.6 avg.
Punt Returns:	Vernon Turner, 21 ret., 10.4 avg., 1 TD
Tackles:	Hardy Nickerson, 122, 86 solo
Sacks:	Brad Culpepper, 4
Interceptions:	Hardy Nickerson, 2 for 9 yards

RESULTS

at Chicago	9-21	Chicago	6-20
Indianapolis	24-10	at Detroit	9-14
New Orleans	7- 9	at Seattle	21-22
at Green Bay	3-30	at Minnesota (OT)	20-17
Detroit	24-14	Washington	26-21
at Atlanta	13-34	L.A. Rams	24-14
at San Francisco	16-41	at Washington	17-14
Minnesota	13-36	Green Bay	19-34

PROJECTED STARTING LINEUP

OFFENSE

82	ALVIN HARPER	WR
74	PAUL GRUBER	LT
70	CHARLES McRAE	LG
61	TONY MAYBERRY	C
62	IAN BECKLES	RG
76	SCOTT DILL	RT
81	JACKIE HARRIS	TE
80	LAWRENCE DAWSEY	WR
12	TRENT DILFER	QB
33	ANTHONY McDOWELL	FB
32	ERRICT RHETT	RB
5	MICHAEL HUSTED	K

DEFENSE

71	SANTANA DOTSON	LE
	WARREN SAPP	NT
73	BRAD CULPEPPER	UT
75	ERIC CURRY	RE
55	LONNIE MARTS	LLB
56	HARDY NICKERSON	MLB
	DERRICK BROOKS	RLB
35	MARTIN MAYHEW	LCB
39	CHARLES DIMRY	RCB
29	KENNETH GANT	SS
22	THOMAS EVERETT	FS
1	REGGIE ROBY	P

Personnel changes made after April 22 may not be reflected.

Information provided by Rick Odioso, Director of Public Relations.

DALLAS COWBOYS

Before leaving for Tampa Bay, free agent wide receiver Alvin Harper had some words for his former employers in Dallas.

"It's going to be hard to rebuild a dynasty," Harper said. "The Cowboys are going to lose a lot of key players, including myself."

He made the statement in the wake of Dallas' 38–28 loss to San Francisco in the National Football Conference title game. Also a factor was the awarding of a five-year, $15 million contract to wide receiver Michael Irvin that prompted Dallas to allocate its remaining free-agent dollars to players other than Harper.

For a second consecutive year, free agency has stripped away some familiar names from what was, during back-to-back Super Bowl seasons, the National Football League's deepest squad. But that doesn't mean the ship is sinking or even veering off course, according to the man who makes the final call on Cowboys personnel.

LAYNE MURDOCH

MICHAEL IRVIN

"I don't see it that way," says team owner Jerry Jones. "I see this as the end of a run of two Super Bowl titles, certainly. But other great teams of the past have lost like this and come back. We aren't going to panic."

Jones is counting on the continued success of the league's top-rated defense, under the direction of its third coordinator in four seasons, to push the Cowboys into Super Bowl XXX. He is also counting on the return to health of Pro Bowl running back Emmitt Smith, who was plagued by recurring hamstring injuries late last season, and on third-year wideout Kevin Williams to be the deep threat capable of keeping defenses from devoting too much attention to Irvin.

And, yes, he is counting on second-year coach Barry Switzer to place a more personal stamp on this year's edition of the team. Switzer, despite a 13–5 record, was criticized for not securing an unprecedented Super Bowl "threepeat." It is criticism Jones considers unfair because Switzer, in the owner's estimation, probably took the injury-plagued Cowboys farther than predecessor Jimmy Johnson would have in 1994.

"Considering the circumstances under which he came in, Barry Switzer did a terrific job," Jones says. "I'm looking forward to seeing what he can do with a year of NFL experience under his belt."

So is Switzer, who must fill the voids left by the free-agent departures of pass-rushing specialist Jim Jeffcoat (eight sacks) and free safety James Washington. On offense, Switzer also must find replacements for Harper and center Mark Stepnoski and, at least until October, he must cope with an unsettling vacancy at right tackle. It is expected to be at least that long before Erik Williams, whom Cowboy coaches consider the best offensive lineman in football, recovers sufficiently from injuries he sustained in a near-fatal car crash last year. In addition, Williams' personal troubles contribute to the muddled picture.

Despite the challenges, Dallas again figures to rank (with San Francisco) as one of the two most talented teams in the NFL. And this season, the Cowboys and 49ers will play their regular-season contest at Texas Stadium. Many Cowboys believe that if last year's NFC championship game had been played on their home turf, instead of the muck and mire of Candlestick Park, the outcome would have been different. The teams' talent levels, they contend, are that similar.

QUARTERBACKS

Troy Aikman joins San Francisco's Steve Young and Miami's Dan Marino on the league's short list for best quarterback. Selected to a fourth consecutive Pro Bowl, Aikman fought through injuries to both himself and key teammates to complete 64.5 percent of his passes for 2,676 yards and 13 touchdowns. He, more than any other player, sets the tone for this team.

Jason Garrett, the backup who had his moment in the sun against Green Bay (311 passing yards, two TDs), does not have sufficient arm strength to be much more than an economical, emergency option. Free agent Rodney Peete, last year's No. 2, hopes to

STEVE WOLTMANN

TROY AIKMAN

land a starting role elsewhere rather than take a pay cut to remain Aikman's caddy.

RUNNING BACKS

Five-time Pro Bowler Smith rushed for 1,484 yards and 21 touchdowns while also catching 50 passes. Unless his hamstring problems recur, he is capable of topping those numbers this season.

The real concern is the backup. It won't be Derrick Lassic, who was scooped up in the expansion draft. Sherman Williams, Dallas' first pick in the draft, or Lincoln Coleman, whose work ethic has been attacked, will fill it.

At fullback, Daryl Johnston is simply the best in the business; no other player in the league is a better lead blocker out of the backfield.

RECEIVERS

Irvin (79 catches, 1,241 yards, six TDs) is a big-time talent. Kevin Williams has the speed but has yet to show the consistency or route-running ability to be a marquee player. He'll get his chance now. Cory Fleming is the No. 3 receiver, despite never having caught a regular-season pass in the NFL.

Tight end Jay Novacek, re-signed for a cool $4.5 million over three years, remains Aikman's favorite third-down target and is among the league's best receivers at that position.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The bulwarks on the left side, Newton and tackle Mark Tuinei, played in the Pro Bowl. So did Stepnoski, whose free agency landed him in Houston. Sixteen-year veteran Ray Donaldson was acquired from Seattle and will solidify the line at center. On the right side, the key is Erik Williams' return. If healthy, Williams will start and second-year man Larry Allen can move to right guard. If not, Allen will remain at tackle alongside Ron Stone.

Make no mistake, Dallas' overall offensive production drops when Williams is not in the lineup because so many of Smith's best running plays are designed to go to his side.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Perennial All-Pro end Charles Haley, who threatened to retire following the 1994 season, was swayed back into the fold. The loss of Jeffcoat to Buffalo absolutely necessitated Haley's return.

Left end Tony Tolbert, coming off a career-best season (89 tackles, five sacks, 23 pressures), looms as a key pass-rushing presence. Tolbert matched Irvin's contract of $15 million over five years when he re-signed. At tackle, the troika of Russell Maryland, Leon Lett and Chad Hennings worked well.

DARREN WOODSON

PAUL JASIENSKI

Big-Time Job Makes For a Happy Campo

Behind coach Barry Switzer, Dave Campo has the second-toughest job in Dallas.

The Cowboys' first-year defensive coordinator takes over a unit that, in the past three seasons, has won two Super Bowls and finished twice as the top-ranked defense in the NFL. Dallas accomplished those feats under two different coordinators, Dave Wannstedt and Butch Davis, who have gone on to head-coaching positions.

The expectation is for Campo to produce similar results. But he must do so without pass-rushing standout Jim Jeffcoat, who signed a free-agent contract with Buffalo, and James Washington, the defensive hero of Super Bowl XXVIII, who signed with the Redskins.

"I don't see us making any major overhauls of philosophy or personnel," Campo says. "Probably our one defining defensive characteristic is speed, and that will still be our trademark. One of the things I believe in is, if your system is successful, good things will happen to everyone."

Campo is not a well-known name among NFL fans outside of Dallas. During a 25-year career that has covered 12 states and 12 teams, there have been stops at such places as Albany (N.Y.) State, Weber State, Boise State, Iowa State and Oregon State.

It was not until Campo hooked up with Johnson in Miami, then followed him to Dallas, that he worked with the same team for more than three consecutive seasons. Now, he is heading into his seventh year with Dallas, having spent the first six as secondary coach.

"In all that time," says the 47-year-old Campo," I never thought much about being a head coach, which is something I do think about now."

The primary concern is second-year defensive end Shante Carver. Dallas' No. 1 draft pick a year ago, Carver was considered a bust as a rookie. Cowboy coaches publicly grumbled about his inability to add weight and his penchant for missing meetings. But Jeffcoat's departure could force Carver into the mix.

LINEBACKERS

Middle linebacker Robert Jones made 162 tackles but most of them were downfield. Strong-side linebacker Dixon Edwards continues to show promise as he grows into his starting role. Darrin Smith (four sacks, two interceptions, six tackles for losses) is an emerging big-play man on the weak side.

Backup Godfrey Myles is capable plugging the gap, but depth is questionable.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Darren Woodson, with five interceptions and 12 pass breakups, established himself as

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a Pro Bowl strong safety. Kevin Smith, at left cornerback, may soon join him.

Larry Brown, the other corner, struggled down the stretch but is still an above-average NFL performer. The free safety spot, with Washington gone, may fall to special-teams standout Brock Marion.

KICKING GAME

Punter John Jett averaged 41.9 yards per attempt but, more importantly, pinned opponents inside their 20-yard line 26 times and had just four touchbacks. Kicker Chris Boniol has an accurate leg from inside 40 yards (16 of 19), but his range is lacking. That's true of his kickoffs, too.

COWBOYS ALL-TIME TEAM

Offense

WR	Bob Hayes (1965-74)
TE	Jay Novacek (1990-)
T	Rayfield Wright (1967-79)
G	John Niland (1966-74)
C	Tom Rafferty (1976-89)
G	Herb Scott (1975-84)
T	Pat Donovan (1975-83)
WR	Drew Pearson (1973-83)
QB	Roger Staubach (1969-79)
RB	Tony Dorsett (1977-87)
RB	Emmitt Smith (1990-)
K	Raphael Septien (1978-86)

Defense

DE	Harvey Martin (1973-83)
DT	Bob Lilly (1961-74)
DT	Randy White (1975-88)
DE	Ed "Too Tall" Jones (1974-78, 1980-89)
LB	Chuck Howley (1961-73)
LB	Lee Roy Jordan (1963-76)
LB	Bob Breunig (1975-84)
CB	Mel Renfro (1964-77)
S	Cliff Harris (1970-79)
S	Charlie Waters (1970-78, 1980-81)
CB	Cornell Green (1962-74)
P	Danny White (1976-88)

Special Teams - Bill Bates (1983-)

Kevin Williams remains a spectacular return man. He ran back a punt and a kickoff for touchdowns and ranked among the league leaders in both departments.

BUILDING A WINNER

Dallas' top three offensive weapons — Aikman, Smith and Irvin — remain together, happy, healthy and wealthy as they head into the 1995 season. Excellent overall speed should help to keep the defensive unit at an elite level, but it is no longer the best in the league. Free agency has seen to that.

Developing effective offensive and defensive lines will be the key to the Cowboys' success. ■

ROSTER

HEAD COACH: Barry Switzer (NFL Record: 13-5)
1994 RECORD: 12-4, 1st NFC East

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	EXP.	COLLEGE
8	Aikman, Troy	QB	6-4	228	6	UCLA
73	Allen, Larry	T	6-4	325	1	Sonoma St.
56	Barnes, Reggie	LB	6-1	240	1	Oklahoma
40	Bates, Bill	S	6-1	210	12	Tennessee
18	Boniol, Chris	K	5-11	159	1	La. Tech
24	Brown, Larry	CB	5-11	186	4	TCU
96	Carver, Shante	DE	6-5	242	1	Ariz. State
44	Coleman, Lincoln	RB	6-1	239	2	Baylor
87	Davis, John	TE	6-4	257	1	Emporia St.
53	Donaldson, Ray	C	6-3	300	15	Georgia
58	Edwards, Dixon	LB	6-1	225	4	Mich. St.
23	Fields, Floyd	S	6-1	200	3	Ariz. St.
82	Fleming, Cory	WR	6-1	216	1	Tennessee
17	Garrett, Jason	QB	6-2	195	2	Princeton
94	Haley, Charles	DE	6-5	255	9	J. Madison
69	Hegamin, George	T	6-7	338	1	N.C. State
70	Hellestrae, Dale	G-C	6-5	286	10	SMU
95	Hennings, Chad	DT	6-6	288	3	Air Force
47	Holmes, Clayton	CB	5-10	181	3	C.-Newman
88	Irvin, Michael	WR	6-2	205	7	Miami (Fla.)
19	Jett, John	P	6-0	194	2	E. Car.
48	Johnston, Daryl	FB	6-2	242	6	Syracuse
55	Jones, Robert	LB	6-2	237	3	East Carolina
78	Lett, Leon	DL	6-6	288	4	Emporia St.
31	Marion, Brock	S	5-11	189	2	Nevada-Reno
67	Maryland, Russell	DT	6-1	279	4	Miami (Fla.)
99	McCormack, Hurvin	DT	6-5	274	1	Indiana
49	McGrath, Ryan	TE	6-5	265	R	SW La.
98	Myles, Godfrey	LB	6-1	242	4	Florida
61	Newton, Nate	G	6-3	320	9	Fla. A&M
84	Novacek, Jay	TE	6-4	234	10	Wyoming
76	Reynolds, Jerry	T	6-6	315	1	UNLV
52	Schwantz, Jim	LB	6-2	232	2	Purdue
22	Smith, Emmitt	RB	5-9	209	5	Florida
59	Smith, Darrin	LB	6-1	230	2	Miami
26	Smith, Kevin	CB	5-11	184	3	Texas A&M
65	Stone, Ron	G-T	6-5	309	2	Boston College
30	Studstill, Darren	S	6-1	186	1	W. Va.
92	Tolbert, Tony	DE	6-6	263	6	UTEP
25	Tremble, Greg	S	5-11	188	1	Georgia
71	Tuinei, Mark	T	6-5	305	12	Hawaii
79	Williams, Erik	T	6-6	322	4	C. St. (Ohio)
85	Williams, Kevin	WR	5-9	195	2	Miami (Fla.)
28	Woodson, Darren	S	6-1	215	3	Ariz. State

1995 DRAFT PICKS

ROUND	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
2	Williams, Sherman	RB	5-10	190	Alabama
2	Watkins, Kendell	TE	6-2	293	Miss. St.
2	Hannah, Shane	G	6-5	345	Mich. St.
3	Williams, Charlie	DB	6-0	190	B. Green
4	Bjornson, Eric	WR	6-4	215	Washington
4	Brice, Alundis	DB	5-10	180	Mississippi
4	Hardin, Linc	LB	6-2	238	Okla. St.
5	Hervey, Edward	WR	6-3	179	USC
5	Howard, Dana	LB	6-0	238	Illinois
7	Sturgis, Oscar	DE	6-5	280	N.C.

1994 WRAP-UP

TEAM DATA

Total Offense:	332.6 yards per game
Total Defense:	269.6 yards per game
Scoring Offense:	25.9 points per game
Scoring Defense:	15.5 points per game

LEADERS

Passing::	Troy Aikman, 233-361-2676-12, 13 TDs
Rushing:	Emmitt Smith, 368 att., 1484 yds., 21 TDs
Receiving::	Michael Irvin, 79 rec., 1241 yds., 6 TDS
Kicking::	Chris Boniol, 22-29 FGs, 48-48 XP, 114 points
Punting:	John Jett, 70 punts, 41.9 avg.
Kickoff Returns:	Kevin Williams, 43 ret., 26.7 avg., 1 TD
Punt Returns:	Kevin Williams, 39 ret., 8.9 avg., 1 TD
Tackles:	Robert Jones, 162, 83 solo
Sacks:	Charles Haley, 12.5
Interceptions:	Darren Woodson, 5 for 140 yds., 1 TD

RESULTS

at Pittsburgh	26- 9	Washington	31- 7
Houston	20-17	Green Bay	42-31
Detroit (OT)	17-20	at Philadelphia	31-19
at Washington	34- 7	Cleveland	14-19
Arizona	38- 3	at New Orleans	24-16
Philadelphia	24-13	at N.Y. Giants	10-15
at Arizona	28-21		
at Cincinnati	23-20	**Playoffs**	
N.Y. Giants	38-10	Green Bay	35- 9
at San Francisco	14-21	at San Francisco	28-38

PROJECTED STARTING LINEUP

OFFENSE

85	KEVIN WILLIAMS	WR
71	MARK TUINEI	LT
61	NATE NEWTON	LG
53	RAY DONALDSON	C
65	RON STONE	RG
73	LARRY ALLEN	RT
84	JAY NOVACEK	TE
88	MICHAEL IRVIN	WR
8	TROY AIKMAN	QB
48	DARYL JOHNSTON	FB
22	EMMITT SMITH	RB
18	CHRIS BONIOL	K

DEFENSE

92	TONY TOLBERT	LE
67	RUSSELL MARYLAND	LT
78	LEON LETT	RT
94	CHARLES HALEY	RE
58	DIXON EDWARDS	SLB
55	ROBERT JONES	MLB
59	DARRIN SMITH	WLB
26	KEVIN SMITH	LCB
24	LARRY BROWN	RCB
31	BROCK MARION	FS
28	DARREN WOODSON	SS
19	JOHN JETT	P

Personnel changes made after April 22 may not be reflected.

Information provided by Rich Dalrymple, Director of Public Relations.

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NEW YORK GIANTS

In the end, coach Dan Reeves didn't want the 1994 season to end.

That would have seemed unfathomable in mid- to late October, when the New York Giants were in the middle of a seven-game losing streak. Reeves' preseason prediction of a 9–7 record looked like it was worth about as much as an eight-track tape.

It took a season-ending, six-game winning streak, but the Giants finally got to 9–7. They developed a new quarterback, Dave Brown, along the way, providing hope that there will be life worth living after Phil Simms.

"There are lot of positives that we can go into the off-season with as far as attitude," Reeves says. "I'm just sorry that the season is over."

PETER BROUILLET

DAVE BROWN

Still, New York is a long way from becoming anything more than an occasional threat. The Giants allowed more points (305) than they scored (279), and their average victory margin was only 4.3 points.

With free agency, team chemistry is a combustible, year-to-year element, and the Giants will be hard-pressed to recreate the cohesiveness they developed at the end of the '94 season. One of the key ingredients, running back/punt returner David Meggett, signed with the New England Patriots after the season as a free agent.

And there don't appear to be any stars on the horizon to fill the void left by the retirements of Simms and Hall-of-Famer-in-waiting Lawrence Taylor.

"You can't keep taking away and expect to build," says veteran guard William Roberts.

QUARTERBACKS

Giants management took a beating over the release of Simms, and the criticism reached a crescendo when a 3–0 start disintegrated into 3–7. While Simms' savvy might have prevented an extended losing streak, it would have been at the expense of developing Brown.

Even during a stretch of costly interceptions in the middle of the season, Brown showed mental and physical toughness that won over teammates. He directed final-minute victories in three of the last four games, providing plenty of hope for the future.

RUNNING BACKS

Rodney Hampton became the first player in Giants history to string together four consecutive 1,000-yard seasons. He needed a career-high 327 attempts to get his 1,075 yards, though.

After former Giants coach Bill Parcells lured Meggett away with a five-year, $10 million contract, Herschel Walker was released by Philadelphia and picked up by the Giants for $4.8 million over three years. There is plenty of explosiveness left in the former Cowboys-Vikings-Eagles star, as his three scores of over 90 yards each last season testify. The presence of first-round draft pick Tyrone Wheatley of Michigan could inspire Walker to more late-career heroics.

RECEIVERS

Mike Sherrard stayed healthy for a change, resulting in the best year of his nine-year career (53 catches, 825 yards, six TDs). He is one of the few big-play threats on the team. Chris Calloway emerged as a solid receiver (43 catches, 666 yards). The Giants' 1994 No. 1 pick, Thomas Lewis, is a keeper, but a November knee injury cut short his season after only four catches.

Howard Cross, a strong run blocker, had his most productive year as a receiver (31 catches). H-back Aaron Pierce emerged as an effective multi-purpose player, snaring 20 passes for four touchdowns.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

This is an experienced group, with tackles Jumbo Elliott and Doug Riesenberg, guards William Roberts and Lance Smith, and center Brian Williams boasting a combined 46 years of National Football League experience. But New York ranked last in offense (269.8 yards per game), with the running game averaging only 3.3 yards per carry.

Elliott came back from back problems to have a strong season at left tackle. Smith, a free-agent pickup from Arizona, had made

BERNARDO M. NUNEZ

RODNEY HAMPTON

GIANTS
27
54

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NEW YORK GIANTS

121 consecutive starts before ankle and knee injuries sidelined him in November. Roberts, a 10-year veteran, hasn't missed a game in seven years. Riesenberg is also an iron man of sorts at right tackle, having started every game for three seasons.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Reeves desperately needs somebody to emerge as a playmaker. The Giants had only 26 sacks — 20 more than they allowed. Left end Keith Hamilton tied tackle Erik Howard for the team lead with a modest 6½ sacks. For Hamilton, it was a disturbing step backward from 1993, when he had a team-high 11½ sacks.

Howard hit the free-agency road across town to the Giants, and Carolina lured away Mike Fox with a five-year, $9 million contract, leaving fourth-year man Stacey Dillard at right tackle. Newcomers Robert Harris (Minnesota) and Ray Agnew (New England) round out the rest of the line. Harris should take over at left end, with Hamilton moving to the other side.

LINEBACKERS

The Giants kept one of their most valued free agents, strong-side linebacker Corey Miller, with a four-year, $6.5 million deal. Michael Brooks started every game at weak-side linebacker, recording more than 100 tackles (118) for the fifth time in an eight-year career. Carlton Bailey fell out of favor in '94 and was released. Corey Widmer, re-signed by the Giants in the off-season, is the probable starter in the middle, and Mike Croel, signed as a free agent from Denver, will battle for playing time at an outside spot.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

The lack of a pass rush exposed an inexperienced secondary. The Giants got torched for 1,367 passing yards in their first five games before improving sufficiently to finish eighth in the NFL rankings by season's end.

Much of the improvement had to do with the emergence of rookie cornerback Thomas Randolph, a starter for the final nine games. If three-year veteran Phillippi Sparks (16 games missed in the past two seasons) can stay healthy, New York is set with a young pair of corners who should only improve.

The Giants, less than enamored with the combination of Jarvis Williams and Jesse Campbell at safety, signed free agent Maurice Douglass of Chicago to a two-year deal. Douglass will battle Campbell for the starting free safety spot and could be used as a nickel back or extra defensive back in passing situations. Jason Sehorn (second-round 1994 pick) should get every opportunity to move into the mix.

MICHAEL BROOKS

STEVE WOLTHANN

Novice QB Brown Brooded About Mistakes But Overcame Them

Trial by fire is one thing. The heat of quarterbacking the New York Giants, especially after the unpopular and unceremonious dumping of Phil Simms, is another.

Dave Brown may have been a novice National Football League starting quarterback in 1994, but he understood that better than anybody else. Brown grew up a Giants fan in Westfield, N.J., which is just a short hop from Giants Stadium. He was New York's first-round pick in the Supplemental Draft of June 1992, after throwing for 2,794 yards and 20 touchdowns as a junior at Duke to lead the ACC in both categories.

He could feel the pain of the Giants' fans, as well as his own, when a 3–0 start last season disintegrated into 3–7. He could feel their gain when the Giants regrouped to win their final six games. Not only did Brown, who didn't turn 25 until after the '94 campaign, survive a shaky midseason, he thrived down the stretch, directing three final-minute victories in the last four games.

Brown's statistics (2,536 passing yards, 57.4 completion percentage, 12 touchdowns, 16 interceptions, 72.5 efficiency rating) tell only part of the story. He threw 10 of his interceptions — three returned for touchdowns — during the first five games of the losing streak. Times got so tough for Brown that he didn't use any of the New York Knicks season tickets he had purchased until after the Giants had put their losing streak three games into their rearview mirror.

"I guess I was punishing myself a little bit, Brown says. "Winning is a relief and losing is torture. When you win, you kind of take a deep breath and relax for a half a second before worrying about next week."

A play that still painfully stands out in Brown's mind is the pass that James Williams of the New Orleans Saints returned 33 yards for a touchdown shortly before halftime in Game 4. The interception turned out to be the difference in a 27–22 loss that, in Brown's words, "started our downward spiral. I missed some wide-open throws after that. I still think about it. That's the way I am: I look at the negatives. The positives are supposed to happen and the negatives aren't. I think that's the way you have to be as a player. You want to keep getting better and you want to learn from mistakes."

The mistakes prompted a one-game benching in favor of Kent Graham. Brown started again in Game 11, only to be knocked out with a concussion. He entrenched himself as the Giants' quarterback of the present and future in the final five games, passing for 1,014 yards, five touchdowns and four interceptions.

"I'm sure," Brown says, "expectations are going to be higher."

Both his and those of Giants fans.

KICKING GAME

Veteran David Treadwell hit only 11-of-17 field goals — none longer than 41 yards. Brad Daluiso, a career kickoff specialist, was a savior down the stretch, hitting 11 consecutive field goals after taking over for Treadwell in Game 13.

Although 11-year veteran Mike Horan dropped a career-high 25 punts inside the opposition's 20-yard-line, he was erratic. The biggest area of special-teams concern for the Giants will be how they make up for the departure of Meggett, the franchise's all-time leading punt returner (2,230 yards, six TDs).

BUILDING A WINNER

Reeves just might be too good a coach for his own good. He squeezed nine victories out of a team with no true stars, leaving the Giants with the No. 17 overall pick in the draft. Any team that allows 634 more yards than it gains has plenty of holes.

Brown looks like a quarterback a coach can win with, if given the proper weapons. Historically, the Giants have let the defense carry the team during rebuilding, but they currently lack proven big-play personnel. Perhaps Wheatley can change that.

The Giants may have to drop a bit in the standings before legitimate progress can be made. But in New York, patience is every bit as much a four-letter word as Jets. ■

GIANTS ALL-TIME TEAM

Offense

WR	Kyle Rote (1951-61)
TE	(Tie) Bob Tucker (1970-77)
	Mark Bavaro (1985-90)
T	Roosevelt Brown (1953-65)
G	Darrell Dess (1959-64, 1966-69)
C	Mel Hein (1931-45)
G	Jack Stroud (1953-64)
T	Steve Owen (1926-1936)
WR	Homer Jones (1964-69)
QB	Phil Simms (1979-93)
RB	Frank Gifford (1952-60, 1962-64)
RB	Joe Morris (1982-89)
K	Pete Gogolak (1966-74)

Defense

DE	Andy Robustelli (1956-64)
DT	Arnie Weinmeister (1950-53)
DE	Jim Katcavage (1956-68)
LB	Lawrence Taylor (1981-93)
LB	Sam Huff (1956-63)
LB	Harry Carson (1976-88)
LB	Brad Van Pelt (1973-83)
DB	Dick Lynch (1959-66)
S	Emlen Tunnell (1948-58)
S	Jimmy Patton (1955-66)
DB	Spider Lockhart (1965-75)
P	Don Chandler (1956-64)

Special Teams - David Meggett (1989-94)

ROSTER

HEAD COACH: Dan Reeves (NFL Record: 138–92–1)
1994 RECORD: 9–7, 2nd NFC East

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	EXP.	COLLEGE
93	Agnew, Ray	DL	6–3	272	5	N.C. State
98	Armstead, Jessie	LB	6–1	228	2	Miami (Fla.)
21	Beamon, Willie	CB	5–11	175	2	N. Iowa
78	Bishop, Greg	T	6–5	295	2	Pacific
41	Booty, John	S	6–0	180	7	TCU
77	Bratzke, Chad	DE	6–4	262	1	E. Kentucky
94	Brooks, Michael	LB	6–1	235	8	LSU
17	Brown, Dave	QB	6–5	225	3	Duke
86	Brown, Derek	TE	6–6	260	3	Notre Dame
55	Buckley, Marcus	LB	6–3	235	2	Texas A&M
80	Calloway, Chris	WR	5–10	185	5	Michigan
37	Campbell, Jesse	S	6–1	215	4	N.C. State
51	Croel, Mike	LB	6–3	231	4	Nebraska
87	Cross, Howard	TE	6–5	258	6	Alabama
3	Daluiso, Brad	PK	6–2	215	4	UCLA
62	Davis, Scott	G	6–3	289	2	Iowa
71	Dillard, Stacey	DT	6–5	292	3	Oklahoma
82	Douglas, Omar	WR	5–10	170	1	Minnesota
	Douglass, Maurice	S	5–11	202	8	Kentucky
34	Downs, Gary	RB	6–0	212	1	N.C. State
20	Elias, Keith	RB	5–9	191	1	Princeton
76	Elliott, John	T	6–7	308	7	Michigan
10	Graham, Kent	QB	6–5	236	3	Ohio State
75	Hamilton, Keith	DE	6–6	290	3	Pittsburgh
27	Hampton, Rodney	RB	5–11	230	5	Georgia
89	Harrell, Gary	WR	5–7	170	1	Howard
97	Harris, Robert	DE	6–4	279	3	Southern
2	Horan, Mike	P	5–11	188	11	L. Bch. St.
85	Kozlowski, Brian	HB	6–3	250	1	Conn.
83	Marshall, Arthur	WR	5–11	178	3	Georgia
99	Maumalanga, Chris	DT	6–2	288	1	Kansas
57	Miller, Corey	LB	6–2	255	4	So. Car.
84	Pierce, Aaron	HB	6–5	248	3	Washington
23	Randolph, Thomas	CB	5–9	176	1	Kansas St.
44	Rasheed, Kenyon	FB	5–10	235	2	Oklahoma
39	Raymond, Corey	CB	5–11	185	3	LSU
63	Reese, Darren	G	6–4	285	1	Ohio
72	Riesenberg, Doug	T	6–5	280	8	California
66	Roberts, William	G	6–5	292	10	Ohio State
91	Rudolph, Coleman	DE	6–4	270	2	Ga. Tech
31	Sehorn, Jason	S	6–2	212	1	USC
88	Sherrard, Mike	WR	6–2	187	9	UCLA
58	Shufelt, Pete	LB	6–3	240	1	UTEP
61	Smith, Lance	G	6–3	290	10	LSU
22	Sparks, Phillippi	CB	5–11	190	3	Ariz. St.
92	Strahan, Michael	DE	6–4	270	2	Texas So.
18	Treadwell, David	PK	6–1	185	6	Clemson
34	Walker, Herschel	RB	6–1	225	9	Georgia
8	White, Stan	QB	6–2	202	1	Auburn
90	Widmer, Corey	LB	6–3	250	3	M'tana St.
59	Williams, Brian	C	6–5	300	6	Minnesota
26	Williams, Jarvis	S	5–11	200	7	Florida
29	Wooten, Tito	S	6–0	181	1	NE La.

1995 DRAFT PICKS

ROUND	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	Wheatley, Tyrone	RB	6–0	232	Michigan
2	Gragg, Scott	T	6–8	316	Montana
3	Young, Rodney	DB	6–2	212	LSU
4	Zatechka, Rob	G	6–4	307	Nebraska
4	Talley, Ben	LB	6–3	240	Tennessee
5	Mullen, Roderick	DB	6–2	199	Grambling
6	Duff, Jamal	DE	6–7	259	S. Diego St.
6	Way, Charles	RB	6–1	238	Virginia
7	Diehl, Bryne	P	6–2	215	Alabama

1994 WRAP-UP

TEAM DATA

Total Offense:	269.8 yards per game
Total Defense:	309.4 yards per game
Scoring Offense:	17.4 points per game
Scoring Defense:	19.1 points per game

LEADERS

Passing:	Dave Brown, 201–350–2536–16, 12 TDs
Rushing:	Rodney Hampton, 327 att., 1075 yds., 6 TDs
Receiving:	Mike Sherrard, 53 rec., 825 yds., 6 TDs
Kicking:	David Treadwell, 11–17 FGs, 22–23 XP, 55 points
Punting:	Mike Horan, 85 punts, 41.4 avg.
Kickoff Returns:	David Meggett, 29 ret., 18.9 avg.
Punt Returns:	David Meggett, 26 ret., 12.4 avg., 2 TDs
Tackles:	Michael Brooks, 118, 91 solo
Sacks:	Keith Hamilton, Erik Howard, 6.5
Interceptions:	John Booty, 3 for 95 yds.

RESULTS

Philadelphia	28–23	at Dallas	10–38
at Arizona	20–17	Arizona	9–10
Washington	31–23	at Houston	13–10
at New Orleans	22–27	at Washington	21–19
Minnesota	10–27	at Cleveland	16–13
at L.A. Rams	10–17	Cincinnati	27–20
Pittsburgh	6–10	at Philadelphia	16–13
Detroit (OT)	25–28	Dallas	15–10

PROJECTED STARTING LINEUP

OFFENSE

88	MIKE SHERRARD	WR
76	JOHN ELLIOTT	LT
66	WILLIAM ROBERTS	LG
59	BRIAN WILLIAMS	C
61	LANCE SMITH	RG
72	DOUG RIESENBERG	RT
87	HOWARD CROSS	TE
80	CHRIS CALLOWAY	WR
17	DAVE BROWN	QB
44	KENYON RASHEED	FB
27	RODNEY HAMPTON	RB
3	BRAD DALUISO	K

DEFENSE

97	ROBERT HARRIS	LE
93	RAY AGNEW	LT
71	STACEY DILLARD	RT
75	KEITH HAMILTON	RE
94	MICHAEL BROOKS	OLB
90	COREY WIDMER	MLB
57	COREY MILLER	OLB
22	PHILLIPPI SPARKS	LCB
23	THOMAS RANDOLPH	RCB
	MAURICE DOUGLAS	SS
37	JESSE CAMPBELL	FS
2	MIKE HORAN	P

Personnel changes made after April 22 may not be reflected.

Information provided by Pat Hanlon, Director of Public Relations.

ARIZONA CARDINALS

Buddy Ryan was wrong. The Arizona Cardinals, one year into the Buddyball era, do not have "a winner in town," as Ryan so boldly proclaimed the day he was introduced as coach and general manager.

Then again, the Cardinals, for the first time since moving west in 1988, do not have a loser in town, either. Instead, they have the returnees from an 8–8 team that exhibited a playoff-caliber defense and a waiver-wire caliber offense throughout 1994.

Among NFC teams, only Dallas surrendered fewer points in 1994 than Arizona's 267. The problem was that everybody else in the conference outscored the Cardinals.

However, a subtle tweaking of the offense could be enough to get to the playoffs,

STEVE BEYER

LARRY CENTERS

Arizona's goal, in 1995. In half of their games, the Cardinals failed to score more than one touchdown; they were held without an offensive touchdown five times.

To become playoff participants, Arizona must add some big-play punch to its ball-control attack. The Cardinals led the National Football League in time of possession (32:37 per game), yet scored a league-low 23 touchdowns, including just one from beyond the 20-yard line.

Ryan hopes several off-season moves, via free agency and the draft, will help remedy that situation. He sent veteran quarterback Steve Beuerlein off to Jacksonville in the expansion draft. He shook up his receiver corps and his offensive line. He vowed to squeeze more productivity out of running backs Ron Moore, Larry Centers and Garrison Hearst.

Newcomers on the offensive side of the ball hopefully can blend as smoothly into Ryan's system as last year's additions to his "46" defense. In all, six defensive players who had joined forces with Ryan at other NFL stops hopped on board a year ago and three — Seth Joyner, Clyde Simmons and Wilber Marshall — figure to start for a second consecutive season on a unit that allowed just 45 fourth-quarter points, the lowest total in the NFL in '94.

"We can't afford to give another team a lead," says Joyner, a fixture at right linebacker. "We need to carry an attitude into every game that we have to pitch a shutout."

If the offense improves, the Cardinals could make the playoffs for the first time since 1982.

QUARTERBACKS

With Beuerlein gone, Arizona signed journeyman-field general Dave Krieg, late of the Detroit Lions, to a two-year, $3.6 million contract. Krieg worked mid-to-late season magic in leading the Lions into the playoffs in '94, and the Cardinals hope he still has the touch.

Veteran Jay Schroeder would like to finish what he started a year ago. Schroeder led the Cardinals to four wins in the final six weeks, completing 58.4 percent of his passes (101 of 173) for 1,156 yards in that span. Overall, however, Schroeder finished the year with more interceptions (seven) than touchdown passes (four).

Jim McMahon, heading into his 14th season, is not the answer as a starter, but he's the kind of locker-room presence Ryan likes and could be a useful spot player.

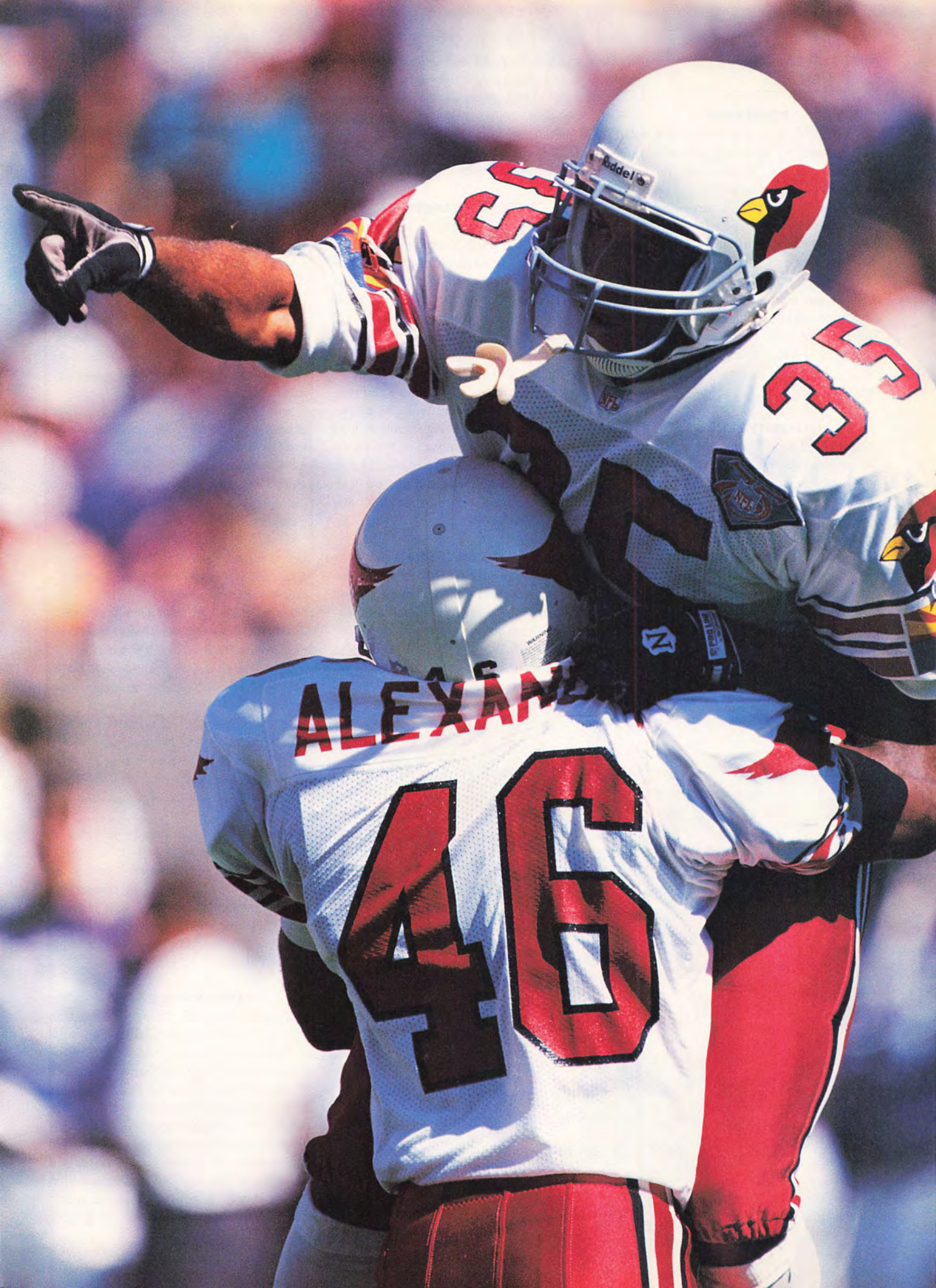
RUNNING BACKS

The running game is easily the strength of the offense, provided the Cardinals can pass well enough to prevent opponents from stacking defenses to stuff the run. Third-year pro Ron Moore continues to be a steal of a fourth-round pick, with 1,798 rushing yards in two seasons, including a team-high 780 last year.

Fullback Larry Centers, a Pro Bowl alternate, rates as one of the NFL's top dual threats. He grabbed a team-high 77 passes last season, many of them on third down, and led the team in rushing touchdowns with five. Garrison Hearst has finally showed signs of bouncing back from the knee surgery that cut short his 1993 season. He averaged 4.6 yards per carry in limited duty (37 carries, 169 yards) and could see more playing time this year because of his explosiveness.

GREG LeBOEUF

AENEAS WILLIAMS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ARIZONA CARDINALS

RECEIVERS

Ryan waved farewell to free agent Randall Hill (38 catches), his fastest player, without complaint. Ricky Proehl was traded to Seattle and Gary Clark (50 catches, 771 yards) was exposed in the expansion draft before being reclaimed. Rookie Bryan Reeves showed little in cameo appearances, averaging just one catch per game.

Given Clark's advancing age (33), it's difficult to see how Arizona will stretch defenses enough to open up the running game. The situation gets no better at tight end, where third-year man Chad Fann (12 catches, 96 yards) figures to be the best of the candidates.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Gone is 13-year veteran tackle Luis Sharpe, the loser in an extended verbal sparring match with Ryan. Rick Cunningham, who had started 33 of 35 games at right tackle before Ryan gave him the hook last November, bolted for Minnesota as an unrestricted free agent.

The unit showed signs of growing pains last year, allowing 34 sacks while beefy left tackle Ben Coleman (6–6, 335) made the adjustment from guard and Joe Wolf stepped into Cunningham's spot. However, former stellar Pittsburgh Steeler Duval Love has joined the ranks and will team with 24-year-old Ernest Dye at the guard spots. Center Ed Cunningham is the lone proven commodity.

This unit must make significant progress from a year ago if the Cardinals hope to experience offensive improvement.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Arizona's defensive front is a burgeoning force, led by up-and-coming stars Eric Swann (seven sacks, 38 hurries, 23 tackles for losses) at tackle and Michael Bankston (138 tackles, tops among NFL defensive linemen) at end. Both are 25. So is tackle Bernard Wilson, who became a starter in Week 3. Ryan considers the unit part of the "best front seven in the NFL."

Included is the veteran Simmons, a Philadelphia escapee who contributed 81 tackles and six sacks after being reunited with Ryan. Swann and Simmons are Pro Bowl-caliber players. Bankston is close. Mix in talented reserve Eric England and the Cardinals are stronger upfront than any other team in the NFC East.

LINEBACKERS

Middle linebacker Eric Hill, the team's defensive captain, led the Cardinals with 142 tackles and was a Pro Bowl alternate. Joyner, in his first season with Arizona, earned his fourth Pro Bowl berth by recording 86 tackles and three interceptions. Marshall, although slowing down after 11 seasons, remains a savage hitter.

Jamir Miller, the Cardinals' first-round pick in the 1994 draft, will be challenging for playing time. In his lone start last season, Miller recorded five tackles, five hurries, two sacks and one forced fumble against Atlanta.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Cornerback Aeneas Williams earned an overdue Pro Bowl berth a year ago on the strength of nine interceptions, tying for the league lead. He benefited from the presence of former Buffalo standout James Williams at the opposite corner. But Williams has opted for the expansion Carolina Panthers, leaving second-year man Brent Alexander, who started seven games as a rookie and broke up 10 passes, and new acquisition Patrick Hunter as the likely replacements.

The safety situation is adequate at best,

Top Card Turns Up in Centers of Deck

Cruising through town in his '63 Chevy Impala, the one with all original parts except for the carburetor, he is unlikely to tip off the fact that he is an NFL running back making $1 million a year.

Lumped into a fantasy draft with the Emmitt Smiths of the world, his rushing stats — 336 yards, five touchdowns in 1994 — would make him a late-round pick at best. But put the Arizona Cardinals in a third-down situation, and he becomes the Centers of attention.

Meet Larry Centers, the man whom Cardinals kicker Greg Davis has termed "the best player on our team." The man whom quarterback Jim McMahon considers a ridiculously underused commodity.

"He's not in the game a lot until it's third down and everyone is keying on him, but he always delivers," McMahon says. "We've got to play him more. I talked about it with our (offensive) coaches all year long. They'd come up with a game plan and I'd say, 'Where is Larry?' It's amazing that we don't give him more chances than we do."

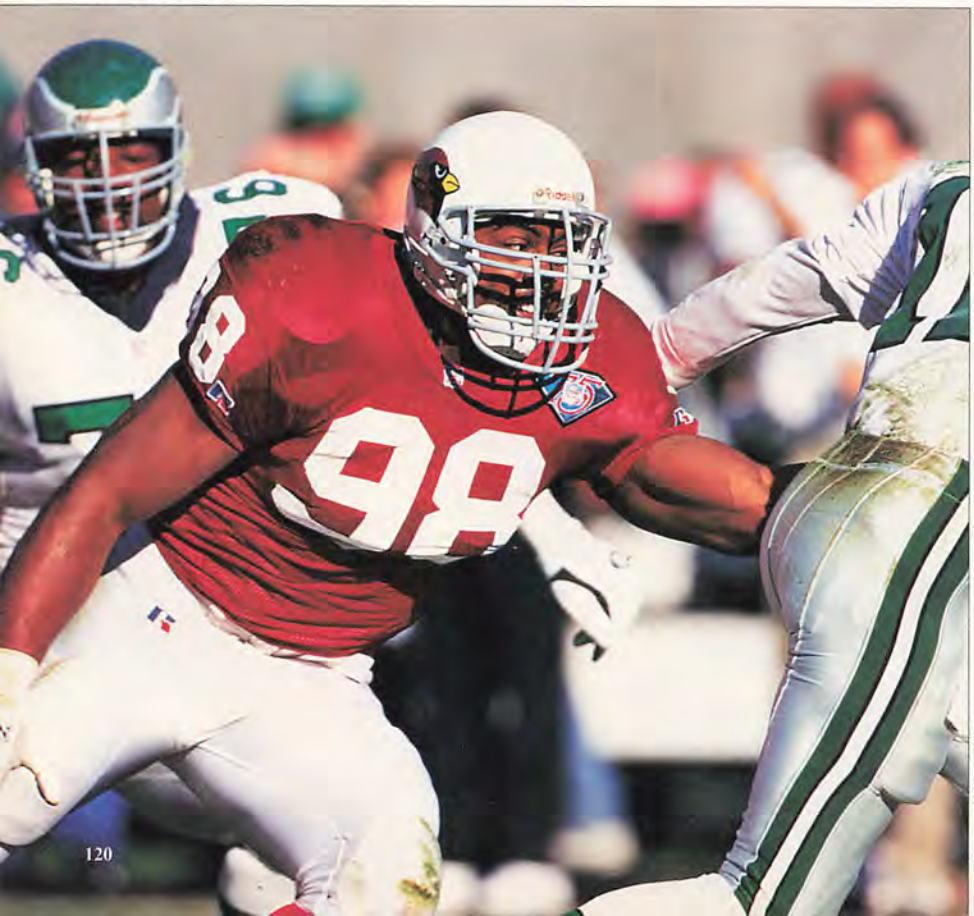
"If I had 11 guys like Larry Centers, we wouldn't have to worry about losing," Ryan says. "The average Joe in the stands doesn't know him, but the defensive coordinators do."

Centers played bass violin rather than football until his senior year of high school, because his mother feared he would take a pounding.

He joined the Cardinals as a fifth-round pick in 1990 and expressed surprise last season when teammates made him an offensive captain.

"He's not big enough to play fullback or fast enough to play tailback," McMahon says. "So you spot him in both places. But he's as good a football player as we've got."

ERIC SWANN



GREG LeBOEUF

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with Ryan retreads Terry Hoage and Andre Waters, along with Lorenzo Lynch, sharing duties a year ago. More speed is a must, although there is no lack of aggression.

KICKING GAME

Once an area of strength, the Cardinals no longer have a clear advantage over opponents in the punting or return games. Punter Jeff Feagles is solid, but no Rich Camarillo. Placements, once again, will be handled ably by Greg Davis. He connected on 19–of–22 field goals inside 50 yards last season, including game winners against Pittsburgh (51 yards in overtime) and Washington (27 yards as time expired).

Ryan experimented with seven different return men. The busiest of the bunch, Chuck Levy, is back, as is punt returner Patrick Robinson. Neither poses the threat of predecessor Johnny Bailey, who left the team after the 1993 season.

BUILDING A WINNER

With the obvious performance-level imbalance, avoiding an us-against-them, offense-vs.-defense scenario in the locker room is paramount if this club is to make a playoff run. Ryan now must show that he can motivate and elevate an offense as well. Unless he does, Arizona is destined to fall short of the playoffs in its second season of Buddyball.■

CARDINALS ALL-TIME TEAM

Offense

WR	Roy Green (1979-90)
TE	Jackie Smith (1963-77)
T	Ernie McMillan (1961-74)
G	Ken Gray (1958-69)
C	Tom Banks (1971-80)
G	Garrard "Buster" Ramsey (1946-51)
T	Dan Dierdorf (1971-83)
WR	Mel Gray (1971-82)
QB	Jim Hart (1966-83)
RB	Ottis Anderson (1979-86)
RB	Charley Trippi (1947-55)
K	Jim Bakken (1962-78)

Defense

DE	Don Brumm (1963-69, 1972)
DL	Stan Mauldin (1946-48)
DE	Joe Robb (1961-67)
LB	Dale Meinert (1958-67)
LB	Ernie Nevers (1929-31)
LB	Larry Stallings (1963-76)
LB	Vince Banonis (1942, 1946-50)
CB	Dick "Night Train" Lane (1954-59)
S	Larry Wilson (1960-72)
S	John "Paddy" Driscoll (1920-25)
CB	Roger Wehrli (1969-82)
P	Rich Camarillo (1989-93)

Special Teams - Ollie Matson (1952-58)

ROSTER

HEAD COACH: Buddy Ryan (NFL Record: 51–43–1)
1994 RECORD: 8-8, 3rd NFC East

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	EXP.	COLLEGE
46	Alexander, Brent	DB	5–10	184	1	Tenn. St.
63	Bankston, Michael	DT	6–3	280	3	Sam H. St.
73	Barrie, Sebastian	DT	6–2	280	3	Liberty
37	Centers, Larry	RB	5–11	215	5	S.F. Austin
84	Clark, Gary	WR	5–9	175	10	J. Madison
62	Coleman, Ben	T	6–6	335	2	Wk. Forest
79	Cunningham, Ed	C	6–3	285	3	Washington
5	Davis, Greg	K	6–0	205	8	Citadel
65	Dye, Ernest	G	6–6	325	2	So. Car.
83	Edwards, Anthony	WR	5–10	190	6	N.M. H'lands
92	England, Eric	DE	6–2	283	1	Texas A&M
86	Fann, Chad	TE	6–3	250	2	Fla. A&M
10	Feagles, Jeff	P	6–1	205	7	Miami (Fla.)
91	Gaines, Wendall	DT	6–4	293	1	Okla. St.
85	Hardy, Darryl	LB-TE	6–2	220	1	Tennessee
23	Hearst, Garrison	RB	5–11	215	2	Georgia
22	Higgs, Mark	RB	5–7	199	7	Kentucky
58	Hill, Eric	MLB	6–2	255	6	LSU
34	Hoage, Terry	WS	6–2	201	11	Georgia
97	Hooks, Bryan	DE	6–3	286	1	Ariz. State
24	Hunter, Patrick	DB	5–11	186	9	Nevada
56	Irving, Terry	OLB	6–0	224	1	McNeese St.
53	Jax, Garth	MLB	6–2	250	9	Fla. State
59	Joyner, Seth	OLB	6–2	235	9	UTEP
57	Kirk, Randy	OLB-LS	6–2	231	8	S. Diego St.
18	Knox, Kevin	WR	6–3	195	1	Fla. State
17	Krieg, Dave	QB	6–1	202	15	Milton
4	Levy, Chuck	WR-RB	6–0	197	1	Arizona
93	Lopez, Kenny	DT	6–2	275	1	Miami (Fla.)
67	Love, Duval	G	6–3	288	10	UCLA
29	Lynch, Lorenzo	SS	5–11	200	8	Cal. St. Sac.
50	Merritt, David	OLB	6–1	237	2	N.C. State
95	Miller, Jamir	OLB	6–4	242	1	UCLA
	Moore, Rob	WR	6–3	205	6	Syracuse
60	Redmon, Anthony	G	6–4	308	1	Auburn
80	Reeves, Bryan	WR	5–11	195	1	Nev.-Reno
82	Robinson, Patrick	WR	5–8	176	2	Tenn. St.
89	Samuels, Terry	TE	6–2	254	1	Kentucky
96	Simmons, Clyde	DE	6–6	280	9	W. Car.
98	Swann, Eric	DT	6–5	295	4	None
22	Tate, Will	WR	5–10	170	1	S. Diego St.
48	Wallace, Sean	S	5–8	185	1	Southern
35	Williams, Aeneas	CB	5–10	190	4	Southern
94	Wilson, Bernard	DT	6–2	295	2	Tenn. St.
68	Wolf, Joe	G	6–6	296	6	Bost. Coll.

1995 DRAFT PICKS

ROUND	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
2	Sanders, Frank	WR	6–1	202	Auburn
3	Case, Stoney	QB	6–2	206	New. Mex.
5	Davis, Cedric	DB	5–9	170	Tenn. St.
5	Scott, Lance	C	6–3	285	Utah
5	Paul, Tito	DB	6–0	185	Ohio State
6	Bridges, Anthony	DB	5–9	181	N. Tex. St.
7	Williams, Billy	WR	5–11	175	Tennessee
7	Leasy, Wesley	LB	6–2	234	Miss. St.
7	Eaton, Chad	DT	6–4	292	Wash. St.

1994 WRAP-UP

TEAM DATA

Total Offense:	287.9 yards per game
Total Defense:	275.5 yards per game
Scoring Offense:	14.7 points per game
Scoring Defense:	16.7 points per game

LEADERS

Passing:	Steve Beuerlein, 130–255–1545–9, 5 TDs
Rushing:	Ronald Moore, 232 att., 780 yds., 4 TDs
Receiving:	Gary Clark, 50 rec, 771 yds., 1 TD
Kicking:	Greg Davis, 17–17 XP, 20–26 FGs, 77 points
Punting:	Jeff Feagles, 98 punts, 40.8 avg.
Kickoff Returns:	Chuck Levy, 26 ret., 19.7 avg.
Punt Returns:	Patrick Robinson, 41 ret., 7.0 avg.
Tackles:	Eric Hill, 142, 102 solo
Sacks:	Michael Bankston, 7
Interceptions:	Aneas Williams, 9 for 89 yards

RESULTS

at L.A. Rams	12–14	at Philadelphia	7–17
N.Y. Giants	17–20	at N.Y. Giants	10–9
at Cleveland	0–32	Philadelphia	12–6
Minnesota	17–7	Chicago (OT)	16–19
at Dallas	3–38	at Houston	30–12
at Washington (OT)	19–16	Washington	17–15
Dallas	21–28	Cincinnati	28–7
Pittsburgh (OT)	20–17	at Atlanta	6–10

PROJECTED STARTING LINEUP

OFFENSE

	FRANK SANDERS	WR
86	CHAD FANN	TE
62	BEN COLEMAN	LT
65	ERNEST DYE	LG
79	ED CUNNINGHAM	C
67	DUVAL LOVE	RG
68	JOE WOLF	RT
	ROB MOORE	WR
17	DAVE KRIEG	QB
23	GARRISON HEARST	RB
37	LARRY CENTERS	FB
5	GREG DAVIS	K

DEFENSE

63	MICHAEL BANKSTON	LE
98	ERIC SWANN	LT
94	BERNARD WILSON	RT
96	CLYDE SIMMONS	RE
59	SETH JOYNER	LLB
58	ERIC HILL	MLB
95	JAMIR MILLER	RLB
35	AENEAS WILLIAMS	LCB
46	BRENT ALEXANDER	RCB
29	LORENZO LYNCH	SS
34	TERRY HOAGE	WS
10	JEFF FEAGLES	P

Personnel changes made after April 22 may not be reflected.

Information provided by Paul Jensen, Director of Public Relations.

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Full zip dry touch nylon windbreaker with embroidered team name on back. Machine wash, tumble dry. Imported.
Most NFL, NBA, NHL, MLB and NCAA teams available.
Adult sizes: **S, M, L, XL** ..**$59.99**
XXL **$65.99**
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Adult sizes: **S, M, L, XL** **$124.99**
XXL **$134.99**
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Quilt-lined nylon jacket with full zip front and cover snaps, detachable hood, large team logo sewn on both sleeves. Machine wash, tumble dry. Imported.
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PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

Give the 1994 Philadelphia Eagles credit for achieving mediocrity in a creative way. Not just any team can scale the heights and sink to the depths the Eagles did on the way to a 7–9 finish.

High point: The Eagles demolished eventual Super Bowl champion San Francisco 40–8 in the fifth week of the season.

Low point: The Eagles lost their final seven games, including a sloppy 33–30 defeat at the hands of lowly Cincinnati in the finale.

The trouble for the Eagles was that they built a 7–2 start on a quicksand foundation. New owner Jeffrey Lurie made it clear from the beginning that Rich Kotite wasn't the coach he really wanted.

DAVID GRAHAM

RICKY WATTERS

Without the support of his owner, Kotite had little chance of holding the team together. Lurie finally brought in his own man in February, hiring San Francisco 49ers defensive coordinator Ray Rhodes.

Only five coaches in the team's 62-year history have made it to the postseason. The Eagles' last championship came in 1960.

On the other hand, Rhodes, who spent 12 of the previous 14 seasons with San Francisco, has accumulated five Super Bowl rings. It's the kind of tradition he vows to instill in the Eagles.

"I didn't get into this business to be just an average guy," Rhodes says. "I want to win championships. I didn't come here to go .500. I've been around winning championships. It's something I've been a part of. At all costs, we want to win."

QUARTERBACKS

How far Cunningham has fallen since winning league Most Valuable Player honors in 1990. Although he was the only quarterback to take every one of his team's snaps in the first 14 games, Cunningham's performance steadily deteriorated. While passing for 3,229 yards, his completion percentage (54.1) and touchdown-interception ratio (16–13) left plenty to be desired.

In the first five games after Philadelphia peaked out at 7–2, Cunningham's Eagles put only 56 points on the board. That earned him a benching for the final two games. Bubby Brister, one of the National Football League's most capable backups, signed a two-year free-agent contract with the New York Jets that reunited him with Kotite.

RUNNING BACKS

For the second consecutive season, Herschel Walker was the Eagles' offensive MVP. He became the first player in NFL history to generate 90-yard scoring plays by rush, reception and kick return in the same season. Only one other player, Hall of Famer Bobby Mitchell, has had that combination of 90-yard TD plays in a *career*. So how did Philadelphia thank their versatile star? With a pink slip. Perhaps Walker will be more appreciated in New York, where the Giants inked him to a three-year, $4.8 million deal.

Various combinations of Walker, rookie Charlie Garner, Vaughn Hebron and James Joseph graced Veterans Stadium's play-at-your-own-risk artificial turf. The 181-pound Garner showed great promise, becoming only the seventh player ever to rush for 100-plus yards in his first two NFL games. Joseph, in the off-season, opted for a two-year shot with the Cincinnati Bengals.

The Eagles courted and subsequently signed 49ers free-agent running back Ricky Watters (three years, $6.9 million). Philadelphia had already raised eyebrows by then, making New England Patriots free agent Kevin Turner (three years, $4.13 million) the second-highest-paid fullback in the NFL behind Dallas Pro Bowler Daryl Johnston.

RECEIVERS

Fred Barnett and Calvin Williams reunited to form one of the league's most effective receiving tandems in 1994, combining for nearly 2,000 yards. Barnett (78 catches, 1,127 yards) showed few ill effects from the torn anterior cruciate ligament that ended his 1993 season after four games. Williams caught 58 passes for a career-high 813 yards, but his touchdown total fell from 10 to three.

GREG LeBOEUF

RANDALL CUNNINGHAM

12
NIKE

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

Injuries hampered tight end Mark Bavaro, whose catches fell from 43 in 1993 to 17 last season.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

A lot has to go wrong for a seven-game losing streak to occur. The Eagles' offense generated an average of only 14.1 points and 269.9 yards per game during that stretch, with the offensive line giving up 25 sacks during the streak.

A season-low 105 total yards against Pittsburgh in Game 14 prompted a reshuffling in the final two games. The revamping continued in the off-season. Veteran Raleigh McKenzie, obtained from Washington, takes over for disappointing former No. 1 pick Antone Davis at left guard.

The Eagles consider 1993 No. 1 pick Lester Holmes a star-in-the-making at right guard. Another building block is Bernard Williams, a 6–8, 317-pound left tackle and the third No. 1 pick the Eagles have spent in the past four years on an offensive lineman. Newly acquired Joe Sims, from Green Bay, is penciled in to start at right tackle.

Center David Alexander has started 108 consecutive games for Philadelphia. The Eagles' fade in '94 didn't prevent him from being voted a Pro Bowl alternate.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Of the Eagles' 42 sacks, only 14 came in the final seven games. Left end William Fuller typified the group, getting a sack in each of the first seven games. Though Fuller got only 2½ sacks the rest of the way, he made the Pro Bowl as a backup. Greg Townsend was disappointing on the other end in his 12th NFL season, contributing only two sacks and losing his starting job after 12 games. Burt Grossman will man the spot, with Mike Flores having departed for Cincinnati.

The Eagles wonder what it will take for tackle Andy Harmon to make the Pro Bowl. He was Philadelphia's defensive MVP with 100 tackles, nine sacks and 31 quarterback hurries. The other tackle, 335-pound William Perry, is a dogged run stopper.

LINEBACKERS

It isn't a coincidence that the Eagles weren't the same after middle linebacker Byron Evans tore up his right leg (fractured tibia, torn medial and lateral meniscus cartilages, torn medial collateral ligament) in Game 10. Evans was leading the team with 82 tackles at the time. The Eagles didn't win again and entered the off-season with a huge hole to fill. Evans' backup, Britt Hager, split for Denver.

Seven-year veteran outside linebacker Bill Romanowski could take over in the middle, making way for first-round draftee Mike Mamula, like Romanowski a Boston College alum, on the left side. The Eagles re-signed right linebacker William Thomas to a contract extension through 1996.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Five-time Pro Bowl cornerback Eric Allen took a step backward last season, revealing a sudden vulnerability deep. Perhaps that is why Philadelphia made little effort to match New Orleans' five-year, $14 million offer.

The Bills' Jerome Henderson was brought in to help divert opponents who go after Mark McMillian on the other corner. At 5–7, McMillian often finds himself on the losing end of jump-ball situations.

Michael Zordich was a little-noticed pickup through free agency, and all he did was make the All-Madden team. A hard-hitting, throwback player, Zordich intercepted four passes and led the team in tackles (130). Former New York Giant Greg

WILLIAM FULLER

DIANE JOHNSON

Ring Around the Rhodes-E

The Philadelphia Eagles were unveiling their 19th head coach, and Ray Rhodes wanted to make the right impression, the right statement.

He had Super Bowl rings from the 1981, '84, '88 and '89 seasons to choose from, with another one from 1994 on the way. At his wife's urging, Rhodes finally settled on the ring from the 49ers' repeat championship team of 1989.

Rhodes, 44, earned all five rings as an assistant at San Francisco, where he spent 12 of the previous 14 seasons. Last season, San Francisco improved from 16th to eighth in yards allowed, using six new starters. The 49ers were sixth in points allowed (296), tied for fifth in takeaways (35) and scored five defensive touchdowns.

"It's easier to bring (a winning attitude to Philadelphia)," says Rhodes, "because I've been a part of five world champions. I've been there."

The Eagles will run the short-pass-oriented West Coast offense. Rhodes is taking more of a wait-and-see approach with his defense, wanting first to get a better handle on his personnel.

It's clear Rhodes considers his approach in the locker room to be a top priority. Dissension, often revolving around quarterback Randall Cunningham, was a fact of Eagles' life during the season-ending, seven-game losing streak.

"Negative forces — I don't like them," says Rhodes. "I'm going to instill (positive values) in this organization from the top down."

That attitude clearly made an impression on Eagles owner Jeffrey Lurie. "He will not only be worth the wait, but he will be worth his weight in gold," Lurie says. "This man has five Super Bowl rings. And I've asked him to save the second hand for us."

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Jackson emerged as a ball-hawk at free safety. His career-high six interceptions tied him with Deion Sanders for third in the NFC.

KICKING GAME

Free-agent Eddie Murray made 21-of-25 field-goal attempts, including 19 of 19 from inside 40 yards, and has a streak of 195 successful extra points. Kansas City castoff Bryan Barker led the NFC in net punting yards after sixth-round draft pick Mitch Berger fizzled. But Barker signed with Jacksonville as a free agent, leaving a hole for Philadelphia to fill.

Jeff Sydner had punt returns of 40, 47 and 49 yards, but contributed to two losses to the Giants by muffing a punt in the first meeting and fumbling a kickoff in the second.

EAGLES ALL-TIME TEAM

Offense

WR	Tommy McDonald (1957-63)
TE	Pete Retzlaff (1956-66)
T	Bob Brown (1964-68)
G	Jerry Sisemore (1973-84)
C	Chuck Bednarik (1949-62)
G	Bucko Kilroy (1943-55)
T	Al Wistert (1943-51)
WR	(Tie) Pete Pihos (1947-55) Harold Carmichael (1971-83)
QB	Ron Jaworski (1977-86)
RB	Steve Van Buren (1944-51)
RB	Wilbert Montgomery (1977-84)
K	Bobby Walston (1951-62)

Defense

DE	Reggie White (1985-92)
DT	Charlie Johnson (1977-81)
DT	Vic Sears (1941-53)
DE	Norm Willey (1950-57)
LB	Maxie Baughan (1960-65)
LB	Bill Bergey (1974-80)
LB	Seth Joyner (1986-93)
CB	Tom Brookshier (1953, 1956-61)
S	Bill Bradley (1969-76)
S	Russ Craft (1946-53)
CB	Eric Allen (1988-94)
P	Joe Muha (1946-50)

Special Teams - Timmy Brown (1960-67)

BUILDING A WINNER

It's up to Rhodes to impose an identity on the Eagles. His first test will be handling a ticklish quarterback situation, because Cunningham has alienated many teammates and fans. The Eagles have spent a lot of high draft choices on the offensive line and need a payoff soon.

Philadelphia could also use a personality or two on defense, now that the likes of Reggie White, Seth Joyner, Clyde Simmons and Jerome Brown are long gone. Mamula might be the man to inject some new blood into a veteran unit. ■

ROSTER

HEAD COACH: Ray Rhodes (NFL Record: 0-0)
1994 RECORD: 8-8, 3rd NFC Central East

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	EXP.	COLLEGE
72	Alexander, David	C	6-3	275	8	Tulsa
82	Bailey, Victor	WR	6-2	196	2	Missouri
24	Barlow, Corey	CB	5-9	182	2	Auburn
86	Barnett, Fred	WR	6-0	199	5	Ark. State
64	Brown, Curt	DT	6-5	260	2	Auburn
71	Chalenski, Mike	DL	6-5	288	2	UCLA
12	Cunningham, Randall	QB	6-4	205	10	UNLV
78	Davis, Antone	T	6-4	325	4	Tennessee
11	Fiedler, Jay	QB	6-1	215	1	Dartmouth
23	Frazier, Derrick	CB	5-10	178	2	Texas A&M
95	Fuller, William	DE	6-3	274	9	N.C.
25	Garner, Charlie	RB	5-9	181	1	Tennessee
22	Goodwin, Marvin	FS	6-0	199	1	UCLA
97	Hall, Rhett	DT	6-2	260	2	California
91	Harmon, Andy	DT	6-4	265	4	Kent
45	Hebron, Vaughn	RB	5-8	196	2	Va. Tech
26	Henderson, Jerome	CB	5-10	189	3	Clemson
73	Holmes, Lester	G	6-3	301	2	Jackson St.
66	Hudson, John	G-C	6-2	275	5	Auburn
26	Jackson, Al	CB	6-0	182	1	Georgia
47	Jackson, Greg	S	6-1	210	6	LSU
98	Jeter, Tommy	DT	6-5	282	3	Texas
87	Johnson, Maurice	TE	6-2	243	4	Temple
62	McKenzie, Raleigh	G	6-3	277	10	Tennessee
29	McMillian, Mark	CB	5-7	162	3	Alabama
3	Murray, Eddie	K	5-11	195	15	Tulane
58	Oden, Derrick	LB	5-11	230	2	Alabama
31	O'Neal, Brian	FB	6-0	233	1	Penn State
63	Panos, Joe	G-C	6-2	296	1	Wisconsin
90	Perry, William	DT	6-2	335	10	Clemson
42	Reid, Mike	S	6-1	218	2	N.C. State
94	Renfro, Leonard	DT	6-2	291	2	Colorado
53	Romanowski, Bill	LB	6-4	231	7	Bost. Coll.
	Sims, Joe	OT	6-3	310	5	Nebraska
	Stubbs, Daniel	DE	6-4	264	6	Miami (Fla.)
85	Sydner, Jeff	WR	5-6	170	3	Hawaii
51	Thomas, William	LB	6-2	218	4	Texas A&M
76	Thompson, Broderick	T	6-5	295	9	Kansas
34	Turner, Kevin	FB	6-1	230	3	Alabama
32	Watters, Ricky	RB	6-1	212	4	Notre Dame
14	Wilkins, Jeff	K	6-1	180	1	Y'town, St.
74	Williams, Bernard	T	6-8	317	1	Georgia
89	Williams, Calvin	WR	5-11	190	5	Purdue
57	Woodard, Marc	LB	6-0	234	1	Miss. St.
27	Zomalt, Eric	SS	5-11	197	1	California
36	Zordich, Michael	S	6-1	201	8	Penn State

1995 DRAFT PICKS

ROUND	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	Mamula, Mike	LB-DE	6-3	248	Bost. Coll.
2	Taylor, Bobby	DB	6-3	208	Notre Dame
2	Brooks, Barrett	OT	6-4	305	Kansas State
3	Jefferson, Greg	DE	6-3	256	Central Florida
3	Jones, Chris T.	WR	6-3	210	Miami (Fla.)
4	Barr, Dave	QB	6-3	210	California
7	Bouie, Kevin	RB	6-1	228	Miss. State
7	Smothers, Howard	T	6-3	285	B.-Cookman

1994 WRAP-UP

TEAM DATA

Total Offense:	320.3 yards per game
Total Defense:	294.4 yards per game
Scoring Offense:	19.3 points per game
Scoring Defense:	19.3 points per game

LEADERS

Passing:	Randall Cunningham, 265-490-3229-13, 16 TDs
Rushing:	Herschel Walker, 113 att., 528 yds., 5 TDs
Receiving:	Fred Barnett, 78 rec., 1127 yds., 5 TDS
Kicking:	Eddie Murray, 33-37 XP, 21-25 FGs, 96 points
Punting:	Bryan Barker, 66 punts, 40.8 avg.
Kickoff Returns:	Herschel Walker, 21 ret., 27.7 avg., 1 TD
Punt Returns:	Jeff Stoner, 40 ret., 19.5 avg.
Tackles:	Michael Zordich, 130, 56 solo
Sacks:	William Fuller, 9.5
Interceptions:	Greg Jackson, 6 for 86 yds., 1 TD

RESULTS

at N.Y. Giants	23-28	Arizona	17-7
Chicago	30-22	Cleveland	7-26
Green Bay	13-7	at Arizona	6-12
at San Francisco	40-8	at Atlanta	21-28
Washington	21-17	Dallas	19-31
at Dallas	13-24	at Pittsburgh	3-14
Houston	21-6	N.Y. Giants	13-16
at Washington	31-29	at Cincinnati	30-33

PROJECTED STARTING LINEUP

OFFENSE

86	FRED BARNETT	WR
74	BERNARD WILLIAMS	LT
62	RALEIGH McKENZIE	LG
72	DAVID ALEXANDER	C
73	LESTER HOLMES	RG
	JOE SIMS	RT
87	MAURICE JOHNSON	TE
89	CALVIN WILLIAMS	WR
12	RANDALL CUNNINGHAM	QB
34	KEVIN TURNER	FB
32	RICKY WATTERS	RB
3	EDDIE MURRAY	K

DEFENSE

95	WILLIAM FULLER	LDE
91	ANDY HARMON	LDT
90	WILLIAM PERRY	RDT
	MIKE MAMULA	RDE
53	BILL ROMANOWSKI	LLB
58	DERRICK ODEN	MLB
51	WILLIAM THOMAS	RLB
29	MARK McMILLIAN	LCB
26	JEROME HENDERSON	RCB
36	MICHAEL ZORDICH	SS
47	GREG JACKSON	FS
		P

Personnel changes made after April 22 may not be reflected.

Information provided by Ron Howard, Director of Public Relations.

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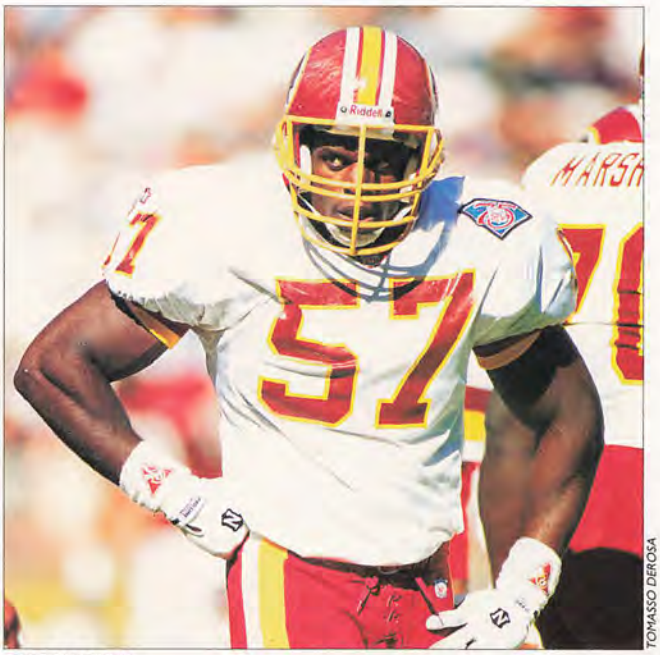
WASHINGTON

REDSKINS

Asked to rate the performance of a first-year coach who turned in an unprecedented 0–8 record at RFK Stadium, Washington Redskins owner Jack Kent Cooke never hesitated.

Despite a franchise-worst 3–13 campaign, Norv Turner stands as "the best coach in the National Football League" in Cooke's estimation.

"I sincerely believe that," says Cooke, who dismissed predecessor Richie Petitbon after a 4–12 mark in 1993, his first and only season as Washington's head coach. "I have complete confidence in Norv. There are going to be more Super Bowl trophies for the Washington Redskins, and it's not going to be in the distant future."



TOMASSO DEROSA

KEN HARVEY

Cooke's confidence in Turner grew, the Redskins' owner says, because the coach maintained his composure and work ethic despite six blown fourth-quarter leads, including four in the final minute. Of the Redskins' 13 losses, seven were by a total of 21 points.

With better defensive play and a fifth-place schedule to contend with this season, Washington could bounce back and capture a playoff berth. Second-year quarterback Heath Shuler says it all boils down to desire.

There was plenty of giveaway offense in 1994. The Redskins suffered 40 turnovers (27 interceptions, 13 fumbles) and forced just 23 in return. The running game sputtered to its lowest output in 26 years (1,415 yards). In Week 13, Tampa Bay held the Redskins to 10 rushing yards, lowest total in franchise history.

Shuler's continued improvement and that of the Redskins' defense figure to dictate how quickly this team becomes a contender in the NFC East.

Defensively, Washington surrendered 412 points, more than any other NFL team a year ago. The Redskins gave up more yards (5,609) than any team in club history. Opponents also set all-time marks for rushing touchdowns (24) and first downs (331) against the defense.

Turner hopes acquisitions through free agency — in particular, linebacker Marvcus Patton from Buffalo, and safeties James Washington (Dallas) and Stanley Richard (San Diego) — and the draft will help curb the productivity of opposing offenses.

"We're in a position where it's easy for people to say we have to concentrate on getting better defensive players," Turner says. "What we really need to do is improve the number of elite players on our team, regardless of position."

QUARTERBACKS

In Game 14, Shuler showed signs of why the Redskins invested $19.5 million in him. If he can handle the mental adjustment to the professional level, there is little doubt he has the physical tools to excel. Eventually.

Of last season's 13 completions for 30 or more yards, Shuler had eight, as well as 30 of 57 passes longer than 20 yards, despite accounting for less than half of the total attempts.

RUNNING BACKS

Reggie Brooks dropped off markedly from his 1,000-yard rookie season, gaining just 297 yards on 100 carries. A year after posting touchdown runs of 85 and 78 yards, he had no carry longer than 15 yards. He missed two games with injuries but was beaten out for playing time late in the year by Ricky Ervins (185 carries, 650 yards, three TDs).

Brian Mitchell, a standout kick returner, is the top receiving threat out of the backfield. Together, they form a serviceable trio. But unless Brooks regains his old form, the ground game will be pedestrian at best.

RECEIVERS

The move across country rejuvenated former Los Angeles Rams star Henry Ellard, who averaged 18.9 yards per catch on 74 receptions. He established himself as Washington's go-to guy but more help is needed. Disappointing first-round pick (1992) Des-

JON SOOHOO

HEATH SHULER

Riddell
5

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

mond Howard went to Jacksonville in the expansion draft, creating opportunities for youngsters Olanda Truitt and Tydus Winans. Both have deep-strike capabilities, especially Winans, who averaged 18.1 yards per catch last season as a rookie.

What the Redskins really lack is a dependable possession receiver, especially at tight end. Free-agent acquisition Ethan Horton (15 catches, 157 yards) was another disappointment, particularly in view of his $2.5 million price tag. Horton's backup, Kurt Haws, went to Carolina in the expansion draft.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Jim Lachey, when healthy, remains one of the top left tackles in football. Problem is, he missed three games last season, all of 1993 and six games in 1992 because of injuries. When in the lineup, however, Lachey's presence is obvious. Washington allowed just 21 sacks, third-fewest in club history, after surrendering 40 without Lachey in 1993.

Elsewhere, the rest of the line is not as stout. Center John Gesek, a key reserve on back-to-back Super Bowl teams in Dallas, made an impact at center but is not a Pro Bowl-caliber player. Raleigh McKenzie, starting to show his age, left as a free agent. Ray Brown and Ed Simmons are solid veterans, but this line lacks the earth-moving abilities of the Hogs in their glory days.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

This is easily the weak link of the team. The front four generates little pass rush. The starters combined for seven sacks and 23 hurries last season, in addition to surrendering yardage in chunks to opposing ground games.

Turner expects two of last year's rookie reserves, Dexter Nottage and Lamar Mills, to push incumbents Tony Woods, Marc Boutte, Tim Johnson and Sterling Palmer now that they are more familiar with the system. This could be an area addressed significantly via free agency before the start of the regular season.

LINEBACKERS

Four linebackers were added to the Washington roster in the off-season, and two were sent packing.

Pro Bowler Ken Harvey (13½ sacks, 20 hurries) remains among the best in the business. That is one reason Patton came on board from the Bills: to add an aggressive inside linebacker that has been lacking. Patton was credited with at least 100 tackles in 1994 for the second consecutive season. The Redskins also welcome Rod Stephens, formerly of Seattle. He was the Seahawks' leading tackler with 128.

JIM LACHEY

DAVID STLUKA

Shuler Shooting High After Struggles

In the aftermath of a dismal debut in the NFL, Heath Shuler crossed paths with a current star who had suffered a similar experience as a rookie starting quarterback. Troy Aikman of the Dallas Cowboys provided encouragement and insight, as only someone with an 0–11 ledger in his first season could offer.

"I talked with Troy, and he told me, 'Fight through it; that's the only way,'" Shuler says, reflecting upon lessons learned during a rookie season that began with a contract holdout and ended with a 1–7 mark as Washington's No. 1 signal-caller.

For Shuler, a big lesson came Oct. 2 against Dallas, when he made his first start and promptly misfired on 15 of his first 20 passes, with one interception. He had four miserable starts — 40.7 completion percentage, four TD passes, nine interceptions — until he was removed for more seasoning. Reinserted for the final four games, Shuler hit 51.3 percent of his passes for 914 yards and six TDs, with just three interceptions.

"The turning point came against Arizona," Shuler says of a Week 14 matchup in which he threw for 286 yards in a 17–15 loss. "Things started being clear. It was like a light clicked on."

"I've gotten my learning curve out of the way and I'm ready to have fun," Shuler says. "When they pay you big money, everyone wants you to play big right off. To me, that was the hardest part — disappointing everyone. My goal and dream in life is to try and make as many people happy as possible.

"I'm finally understanding what I need to be thinking out there. My goal is to be the team leader and I think I'm starting to fall into that picture."

Two ex-Cowboys also join the lot: Darrick Brownlow, who led Dallas' special teams with 27 tackles, and Matt Vanderbeek, primarily a short yardage/goal-line-situation player. Veteran backup Monte Coleman is that rarest of entities, a player in the free-agency era who is heading into his 17th season *with the same team*. Kurt Gouveia is 31. Both Stephens and Patton, a starter in two Super Bowls and a participant in four, should help.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Cornerback Darrell Green, at 35, is no longer the NFL's fastest man. His lack of size (5–8), without accompanying speed makes him an increasing liability. Green has a couple of decent seasons left in him, but not at the elite level. Tom Carter, the other corner, is developing into a presence (14 breakups, three interceptions).

Richard, ex-San Diego free safety, was

signed for a juicy $8.5 million over four years. Strong safety Martin Bayless is a decent ball-hawk and a hard hitter.

Washington, who ran 46 yards for a touchdown after scooping up a fumble by Buffalo's Thurman Thomas in Super Bowl XXVIII, is a seven-year pro. He recorded five interceptions and 101 tackles last season.

KICKING GAME

The Redskins' kicking game suffered a blow when All-Pro punter Reggie Roby signed a free-agent contract with Tampa Bay. His 44.4 yard average will be difficult to replace.

Chip Lohmiller continues to be one of the NFL's elite kickers. Brian Mitchell was a second-team All-Pro as a kick returner, with a 25.6-yard average on kickoff returns and a 14.1 mark (including two touchdowns) on punts.

BUILDING A WINNER

Turner already has the biggest piece of the rebuilding puzzle, a franchise quarterback, in place. But Shuler will need another year, if not two, before he can carry this team on his back. In the interim, Turner needs to shore up the defensive line, add a Jay Novacek-type possession receiver, and breathe life back into the ground game to have cohesiveness when Shuler is ready to take the Redskins to the next level.■

REDSKINS ALL-TIME TEAM

Offense

WR	Charley Taylor (1964-77)
TE	Jerry Smith (1965-77)
T	Turk Edwards (1932-40)
G	Russ Grimm (1981-91)
C	Len Hauss (1964-77)
G	Joe Jacoby (1981-93)
T	Paul Lipscomb (1950-54)
WR	Art Monk (1980-93)
QB	Sammy Baugh (1937-52)
RB	Cliff Battles (1932-37)
RB	John Riggins (1976-79, 1981-85)
K	Mark Moseley (1974-86)

Defense

DE	Gene Brito (1951-53, 1955-58)
DT	Dave Butz (1975-88)
DT	Bob Toneff (1959-64)
DE	Charles Mann (1983-93)
LB	Chris Hanburger (1965-78)
LB	Monte Coleman (1979-)
LB	Chuck Drazenovich (1950-59)
CB	Darrell Green (1983-)
S	Brig Owens (1966-77)
S	Ken Houston (1973-80)
CB	Pat Fischer (1968-77)
P	Sammy Baugh (1937-52)

Special Teams - Mike Nelms (1980-84)

ROSTER

HEAD COACH: Norv Turner (NFL Record: 3-13)
1994 RECORD: 3-13, 5th NFC East

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	EXP.	COLLEGE
56	Anderson, Erick	LB	6-1	240	3	Michigan
87	Bell, Coleman	TE	6-2	232	1	Miami (Fla.)
36	Bell, William	RB	5-11	203	1	Ga. Tech
93	Boutte, Marc	DT	6-4	296	3	LSU
40	Brooks, Reggie	RB	5-8	202	2	Notre Dame
67	Brown, Ray	G	6-5	312	9	Ark. State
59	Brownlow, Darrick	LB	6-0	240	4	Illinois
25	Carter, Tom	CB	5-11	181	2	Notre Dame
85	Ellard, Henry	WR	5-11	182	12	Fresno St.
12	Frerotte, Gus	QB	6-2	221	1	Tulsa
75	Gesek, John	C	6-5	282	8	Cal. St. Sac.
54	Gouveia, Kurt	LB	6-1	233	8	BYU
26	Grant, Alan	CB	5-11	187	5	Stanford
28	Green, Darrell	CB	5-8	170	12	Texas A&I
57	Harvey, Ken	LB	6-2	245	7	California
95	Hochertz, Martin	DE	6-5	269	1	So. Ill.
89	Horton, Ethan	TE	6-4	240	8	N.C.
88	Jenkins, James	TE	6-2	241	4	Rutgers
78	Johnson, Tim	DT	6-3	275	8	Penn St.
77	Johnson, Tré	T	6-2	315	1	Temple
79	Lachey, Jim	T	6-6	294	10	Ohio State
8	Lohmiller, Chip	K	6-3	215	7	Minnesota
70	Marshall, Leonard	DE	6-4	288	12	LSU
64	Matich, Trevor	C	6-4	297	10	BYU
72	Mills, Lamar	DE	6-5	270	1	Indiana
30	Mitchell, Brian	RB	5-10	203	5	SW La.
38	Morrison, Darryl	S	5-11	185	1	Arizona
92	Nottage, Dexter	DE	6-4	273	1	Fla. A&M
97	Palmer, Sterling	DE	6-5	256	2	Fla. State
68	Patton, Joe	G	6-5	288	1	Ala. A&M
53	Patton, Marvcus	LB	6-2	243	5	UCLA
24	Richard, Stanley	S	6-2	197	4	Texas
39	Rush, Tyrone	RB	5-11	196	1	No. Ala.
23	Savage, Sebastian	S	5-10	187	1	N.C. State
5	Shuler, Heath	QB	6-2	221	1	Tennessee
86	Shepherd, Leslie	WR	5-11	189	1	Temple
76	Simmons, Ed	T	6-5	300	8	E. Wash.
37	Smith, Cedric	FB	5-10	222	3	Florida
99	Stephens, Rod	LB	6-1	237	6	Ga. Tech
29	Taylor, Keith	S	5-11	206	6	Illinois
84	Truitt, Olanda	WR	6-0	186	2	Miss. St.
90	Vanderbeek, Matt	LB	6-3	243	5	Mich. St.
35	Washington, James	S	6-1	209	7	UCLA
94	Wilson, Bobby	DT	6-2	297	4	Mich. St.
83	Winans, Tydus	WR	5-11	180	1	Fresno St.
98	Woods, Tony	DE	6-4	269	8	Pittsburgh
22	Wycheck, Frank	FB	6-3	235	4	Maryland

1995 DRAFT PICKS

ROUND	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	Westbrook, Michael	WR	6-3	215	Colorado
2	Raymer, Cory	C	6-2	293	Wisconsin
3	Pounds, Darryl	CB	5-10	177	Nicholls
4	Jones, Larry	RB	6-0	244	Miami (Fla.)
5	Asher, Jamie	TE	6-3	243	Louisville
5	Owens, Rich	DE	6-6	255	Lehigh
6	Thure, Brian	OT	6-5	300	California
7	Turner, Scott	DB	5-9	178	Illinois

1994 WRAP-UP

TEAM DATA

Total Offense:	299.6 yards per game
Total Defense:	350.6 yards per game
Scoring Offense:	20.0 points per game
Scoring Defense:	25.8 points per game

LEADERS

Passing:	Heath Shuler, 120-265-1658-12, 10 TDs
Rushing:	Ricky Ervins, 185 att., 650 yds., 3 TDs
Receiving:	Henry Ellard, 74 rec., 1397 yds., 6 TDs
Kicking:	Chip Lohmiller, 20-28 FGs, 30-32 XP, 90 points
Punting:	Reggie Roby, 82 punts, 44.4 avg.
Kickoff Returns:	Brian Mitchell, 58 ret., 25.5 avg.
Punt Returns:	Brian Mitchell, 32 ret., 14.1 avg.
Tackles:	Andre Collins, 171, 99 solo
Sacks:	Ken Harvey, 13.5
Interceptions:	Andre Collins, 4 for 150 yds., 2 TDs

RESULTS

Seattle	7-28	San Francisco	22-37
at New Orleans	38-24	at Dallas	7-31
at N.Y. Giants	23-31	N.Y. Giants	19-21
Atlanta	20-27	at Tampa Bay	21-26
Dallas	7-34	at Arizona	15-17
at Philadelphia	17-21	Tampa Bay	14-17
Arizona (OT)	16-19	at L.A. Rams	24-21
at Indianapolis	41-27		

PROJECTED STARTING LINEUP

OFFENSE

	MICHAEL WESTBROOK	WR
79	JIM LACHEY	LT
67	RAY BROWN	LG
	CORY RAYMER	C
75	JOHN GESEK	RG
76	ED SIMMONS	RT
89	ETHAN HORTON	TE
85	HENRY ELLARD	WR
5	HEATH SHULER	QB
40	REGGIE BROOKS	FB
37	CEDRIC SMITH	RB
8	CHIP LOHMILLER	K

DEFENSE

98	TONY WOODS	LE
93	MARC BOUTTE	LT
78	TIM JOHNSON	RT
97	STERLING PALMER	RE
57	KEN HARVEY	LLB
53	MARVCUS PATTON	MLB
99	ROD STEPHENS	RLB
25	TOM CARTER	LCB
28	DARRELL GREEN	RCB
24	STANLEY RICHARD	SS
35	JAMES WASHINGTON	FS

Personnel changes made after April 22 may not be reflected.

Information provided by Rick Vaughn, Public Relations Director.

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

It was just after the Super Bowl. Many of his San Diego teammates looked as if they had just witnessed a train wreck. Linebacker Junior Seau chose that time to make a vow.

"I am going to get back," Seau said firmly. "We are definitely going to get back. It is going to be a long road again. But we are young and we believe in ourselves. We have a quality team. We will definitely make a run for it this coming season."

The Chargers' 1994 season was derailed by San Francisco in January's Super Bowl. Yet this is a fine football team, again one of the AFC's best. Paced by Pro Bowlers Seau, running back Natrone Means and defensive end Leslie O'Neal, the Chargers won't be overlooked in the AFC.

STEVE WOLTMANN

NATRONE MEANS

That happened in 1994, when most prognosticators picked San Diego to finish fourth or fifth in the AFC West. Instead, the Chargers won the West and then won two playoff games in the final seconds, edging Miami 22–21 when a last-second Dolphin field goal attempt sailed wide right and beating Pittsburgh 17–13 for the AFC championship when the Steelers couldn't score on fourth-and-goal from the 3-yard line with 64 seconds left.

The Chargers will be led again by unassuming coach Bobby Ross, a man with so little ego that when he forgot his parking pass for a couple of games in San Diego's Jack Murphy Stadium last season, he appeared content to let the parking-lot attendant direct him to a site on the far outskirts of the stadium complex.

QUARTERBACKS

Stan Humphries, who says his pudgy body is more reminiscent of old-time quarterbacks (Do Bobby Layne, Billy Kilmer and Sonny Jurgensen come to mind?) rather than today's sculpted ones, will lead San Diego's attack again.

Humphries did a good job in 1994, impressing everyone with his toughness and his arm. The Chargers were second in the AFC in scoring with 381 points, trailing only Miami's 389.

Humphries threw a career-high 17 touchdown passes. He cut down on his tendency to force the ball into double-coverage, throwing only 12 interceptions.

Backup Gale Gilbert, a former Buffalo Bill, has now been on the losing team in five straight Super Bowls. He is 33 and can still play some if Humphries is injured.

RUNNING BACKS

Means is the man here. His career-high 139-yard rushing performance against Miami in a divisional playoff game was typical of his season. Means should be able to look forward to another 1,000-yard season (he gained 1,350 yards in 1994) as long as he stays healthy.

Ronnie Harmon, the Chargers' pass-catching back, snared 58 last season, tying for the team lead in receptions.

The Chargers usually run from a single-back set with two tight ends, so they rarely employ a fullback. One problem is the lack of a serious running threat other than Means; no one else gained even 300 yards rushing.

RECEIVERS

All three of the Chargers' main receivers — Mark Seay, Shawn Jefferson and Tony Martin — set career highs for receptions and yards in 1994. They form a solid corps of wideouts.

Seay had 58 catches and six touchdowns. A reluctant hero who shielded his niece from gunfire several years ago and took the bullet himself, he is finally becoming known for his football skills. Martin (50 catches, seven TDs) is the big-play threat. He scored on a 99-yard pass play last season and also burned Pittsburgh for a 43-yard game-winning TD bomb in the AFC championship game. Jefferson (43 catches) continues to improve.

The Chargers use tight ends Alfred Pupunu and Duane Young mainly as blockers, although Pupunu stunned the Steelers with his 43-yard TD pass reception in the AFC title game. Look for San Diego to use its tight ends more as receivers in 1995.

BRYAN YABLONSKY

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SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

This is a solid unit that allowed San Diego to exceed 100 yards rushing 10 times in 19 games. Center Courtney Hall and left tackle Harry Swayne, both offensive co-captains, are the anchors.

Hall, the line's signal-caller, has missed only one game in his entire football career dating back to high school. He was a first alternate in the Pro Bowl. Swayne protects Humphries' blind side well and is known as one of the team's best athletes.

Right guard Joe Milinichik, plagued by knee injuries, will try to reclaim his right guard position from Joe Cocozzo and Isaac Davis.

Davis and Vaughn Parker, second-round draft selections in 1994, are well thought of by the organization and could challenge for starting positions. The team will need to find someone to back up Hall since Curtis Whitley was selected by Carolina in the expansion draft.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

O'Neal is a ferocious sacker, who annually ranks among the NFL leaders. Last season, the defensive end led the team with 12½ sacks, second in the AFC, and led the defensive line with 60 tackles. O'Neal has made it to five Pro Bowls and is the Chargers' all-time sacker with 93 in 117 regular-season games.

Tackler Chris Mims looks to build on a fine 1994 season, when he had 11 sacks to rank second on the team. Mims benefits from the way defenses concentrate on O'Neal, but the Chargers' first-round draft choice in 1992 is getting sacks against double-teams from time to time as well.

Tackles Shawn Lee and Reuben Davis are solid against the run. Davis (6–5, 340) tackled Miami's Bernie Parmalee in the end zone for the safety that turned a playoff game around. Depth at the position is average, with John Parrella and Raylee Johnson likely due for more playing time.

LINEBACKERS

Seau may be the league's best at this position. The pronunciation of his name, Say-Ow, has inspired a line of clothing so popular that several rival 49er players were decked out in it at the Super Bowl.

Seau may be even better in 1995, since the recurrent pinched nerve in his neck and shoulder area that bothered him during the Super Bowl has had time to heal. He led the Chargers in 1994 with 155 tackles and will be a huge force again.

The talent level at linebacker drops considerably after that. Dennis Gibson, the other inside linebacker, is well-known for deflecting Pittsburgh's last pass in the AFC championship game but is not a flashy player.

STAN HUMPHRIES

TOM MILLER

Chargers Have Means For Super Bowl Return

Better get out of the way. Here comes a Natrone Means encore.

Means slammed into the NFL like a runaway truck in 1994, rushing for 1,350 yards and 12 touchdowns. He was a star for the surprising San Diego Chargers, appearing on *The Tonight Show* and the cover of *Sports Illustrated*.

Means, only 23, runs with the subtlety of Rush Limbaugh. "I used to get unnecessary-roughness penalties when I was playing midget football at age 7 because I ran too hard," Means says.

But Means (5–10, 245) has differentiated himself from other bruising backs — like the one he replaced in San Diego, Marion Butts — by his ability to juke defenders as well.

"Fake one guy out, then run over the next," Means says.

His mother, Gwen Stevenson, banned him from football in the eighth grade because Natrone was misbehaving in class. Means straightened out and went on to star at the University of North Carolina. He declared for the draft after his junior season.

Means showed up overweight at the Indianapolis scouting combine. No one picked him until the second round, when the Chargers traded for him.

"You can't let a talent like that go," Chargers coach Bobby Ross said at the time. "We were amazed he was still around."

Means is especially tough on defensive backs, who often end up flat on their backs when they try to tackle him.

"I don't know if I hurt defensive backs when I run over them," Means says. "But I do know I hurt their pride."

Outside linebacker David Griggs, once miscast as a defensive end in Miami, has found a niche. He plays over the opponents' tight end and is used sometimes on blitzes. Lewis Bush and Doug Miller are young backups with potential. Steve Hendrickson, who is always entertaining, may be back again as a fill-in.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Here is the Chargers' primary defensive weakness, as anyone who watched the Super Bowl noticed. San Diego was only 22nd in pass defense last season.

Frustrated by the fact that starter Darren Carrington wasn't physical enough, San Diego exposed him in the expansion draft and watched him go to Jacksonville.

Lonnie Young could step into Carrington's starting role or the Chargers may pick up a free agent. Free safety Stanley Richard has left for the Redskins secondary. Free-agent

signees Shaun Gayle (Chicago) and Bo Orlando (Houston) join second-year man Rodney Harrison in the safety shuffle.

At the corners, Darrien Gordon and Dwayne Harper should be set, but both can be beaten.

KICKING GAME

Kicker John Carney is one of the best. He hit on 34 of 38 last season, including 27 of 27 from 40 yards and in. Few kickers are more reliable in the clutch. Carney led the NFL in scoring with 135 points.

Kickoff returner Andre Coleman, who ran one all the way back in the Super Bowl, is another special teams standout. He finished second in the AFC with a 26.4-yard average. Punter Bryan Wagner averaged 41.6 yards.

CHARGERS ALL-TIME TEAM

Offense

WR	Lance Alworth (1962-70)
TE	Kellen Winslow (1979-87)
T	Ron Mix (1960-69)
G	Walt Sweeney (1963-73)
C	Don Macek (1976-89)
G	Doug Wilkerson (1971-84)
T	Russ Washington (1968-82)
WR	Charlie Joiner (1976-86)
QB	Dan Fouts (1973-87)
RB	Paul Lowe (1960-67)
RB	Keith Lincoln (1961-66, 1968)
K	Rolf Benirschke (1977-86)

Defense

DE	Earl Faison (1961-66)
DT	Ernie Ladd (1961-65)
DT	Gary Johnson (1975-84)
DE	Leslie O'Neal (1986, 1988-)
LB	Woodrow Lowe (1976-86)
LB	Junior Seau (1990-)
LB	Billy Ray Smith (1983-92)
CB	Gill Byrd (1983-93)
S	Kenny Graham (1964-69)
S	Mike Fuller (1975-80)
CB	Dick Harris (1960-65)
P	Dennis Partee (1968-75)

Special Teams - Leslie Duncan (1964-70)

Gordon's 13.2 punt-return average ranked second in the NFL.

BUILDING A WINNER

San Diego's weakest point, the secondary, doesn't appear to be seriously upgraded by the Gayle-Orlando arrivals. Another running threat to back up Means could also help.

The Chargers could possibly make another Super Bowl run. An injury to Seau, Means or Humphries, though, would hurt badly and might push the Chargers to the .500 mark or worse. Otherwise, it would be a huge upset for San Diego to miss the playoffs with this young, talented team. ■

ROSTER

HEAD COACH: Bobby Ross (NFL Record: 30-18-0)
1994 RECORD: 11-5, 1st AFC West

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	EXP.	COLLEGE
85	Barnes, Johnnie	WR	6-1	180	3	Hampton
50	Binn, David	TE	6-3	240	1	California
67	Brock, Stan	T	6-6	295	15	Colorado
11	Brohm, Jeff	QB	6-1	200	R	Louisville
58	Bush, Lewis	OLB	6-2	245	2	Wash. St.
3	Carney, John	K	5-11	170	5	Notre Dame
29	Carrington, Darren	S	6-2	200	6	No. Ariz.
44	Castle, Eric	FS	6-3	212	2	Oregon
31	Clark, Willie	CB	5-10	186	1	Notre Dame
68	Cocozzo, Joe	G	6-4	300	2	Michigan
83	Coleman, Andre	WR	5-9	165	1	Kansas St.
35	Culver, Rodney	RB	5-9	224	3	Notre Dame
73	Davis, Isaac	G	6-3	320	1	Arkansas
93	Davis, Reuben	DT	6-5	320	7	N.C.
60	Engel, Greg	C	6-3	285	R	Illinois
23	Gayle, Shaun	S	5-11	202	11	Ohio St.
57	Gibson, Dennis	ILB	6-2	240	8	Iowa St.
13	Gilbert, Gale	QB	6-3	209	9	California
21	Gordon, Darrien	CB	5-11	182	2	Stanford
66	Greene, Earnest	T	6-5	294	R	Savannah St.
92	Griggs, David	OLB	6-3	250	6	Virginia
53	Hall, Courtney	C	6-1	281	6	Rice
33	Harmon, Ronnie	RB	5-11	207	9	Iowa
28	Harper, Dwayne	CB	5-11	175	7	S.C. St.
37	Harrison, Rodney	S	6-0	201	1	W. Ill.
12	Humphries, Stan	QB	6-2	223	6	NE La.
80	Jefferson, Shawn	WR	5-11	180	4	C. Fla.
99	Johnson, Raylee	DT	6-3	265	2	Arkansas
74	Jonassen, Eric	T	6-5	310	3	Bloomsburg
56	Krein, Darren	DE	6-4	258	R	Miami (Fla.)
84	Laing, Aaron	TE	6-3	264	1	N. Mex. St.
98	Lee, Shawn	DT	6-2	300	7	No. Ala.
81	Martin, Tony	WR	6-0	181	5	Mesa
88	May, Deems	TE	6-4	263	3	N.C.
20	Means, Natrone	RB	5-10	245	2	N.C.
54	Miller, Doug	ILB	6-3	245	2	S.D. St.
94	Mims, Chris	DE	6-5	290	3	Tennessee
89	Mitchell, Shannon	TE	6-2	245	1	Georgia
77	Moten, Eric	G-T	6-2	306	4	Mich. St.
91	O'Neal, Leslie	DE	6-4	265	9	Okla. St.
	Orlando, Bo	S	5-10	180	6	W. Va.
70	Parker, Vaughn	T	6-3	296	1	UCLA
97	Parrella, John	DT	6-3	290	2	Nebraska
86	Pupunu, Alfred	TE	6-2	265	3	Weber St.
55	Seau, Junior	ILB	6-3	250	5	USC
82	Seay, Mark	WR	6-0	175	2	L. Bch. St.
72	Swayne, Harry	T	6-5	295	8	Rutgers
79	Thomas, Cornell	DE	6-3	270	1	W. Georgia
25	Vanhorse, Sean	CB	5-10	180	5	Howard
9	Wagner, Bryan	P	6-2	200	7	Cal. St. -No.
64	Whitley, Curtis	C-G	6-1	285	3	Clemson
87	Young, Duane	TE	6-1	270	4	Mich. St.
43	Young, Lonnie	CB-S	6-1	196	10	Mich. St.

1995 DRAFT PICKS

ROUND	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
2	Shaw, Terrance	DB	6-0	190	Stephen F. Austin
2	Fletcher, Terrell	RB	5-9	195	Wisconsin
2	Oliver, Jimmy	WR	5-11	175	TCU
3	Sasa, Don	DT	6-4	285	Washington St.
3	Harrison, Preston	LB	6-5	245	Ohio St.
4	Cowart, Chris	LB	6-3	233	Fla. St.
4	Hayden, Aaron	RB	6-0	215	Tennessee
6	Harrison, Brandon	WR	6-0	175	Howard Payne
6	Whelihan, Craig	QB	6-5	200	Pacific
6	Berti, Tony	OT	6-6	280	Colorado
7	Montrevil, Mark	DB	6-6	280	Concordia (Can.)

1994 WRAP-UP

TEAM DATA

Total Offense:	326.3 yards per game
Total Defense:	316.0 yards per game
Scoring Offense:	23.8 points per game
Scoring Defense:	19.1 points per game

LEADERS

Passing:	Stan Humphries, 264-453-3209-12, 17 TDs
Rushing:	Natrone Means, 343 att., 1350 yds., 12 TDs
Receiving:	Mark Seay, 58 rec., 645 yds., 6 TDs
Kicking:	John Carney, 34-38 FGs, 33-33 XP, 135 points
Punting:	Bryan Wagner, 65 punts, 41.6 avg.
Kickoff Returns:	Andre Coleman, 49 ret., 26.4 avg., 2 TDs
Punt Returns:	Darrien Gordon, 36 ret., 13.2 avg., 2 TDs
Tackles:	Junior Seau, 155, 124 solo
Sacks:	Leslie O'Neal, 12.5
Interceptions:	Stanley Richard, 4 for 224 yds., 2 TDs

RESULTS

at Denver	37-34	L.A. Rams	31-17
Cincinnati	27-10	L.A. Raiders	17-24
at Seattle	24-10	San Francisco	15-38
at Raiders	26-24	at N.Y. Jets	21- 6
Kansas City	20- 6	Pittsburgh	37-34
at New Orleans	36-22	**Playoffs**	
Denver	15-20	Miami	22-21
Seattle	35-15	at Pittsburgh	17-13
at Atlanta	9-10	**Super Bowl**	
at Kansas City	14-13	San Francisco	26-49
at New England	17-23		

PROJECTED STARTING LINEUP

OFFENSE

80	SHAWN JEFFERSON	WR
87	DUANE YOUNG	TE
72	HARRY SWAYNE	LT
73	ISAAC DAVIS	LG
53	COURTNEY HALL	C
68	JOE COCOZZO	RG
70	VAUGHN PARKER	RT
82	MARK SEAY	WR
12	STAN HUMPHRIES	QB
86	ALFRED PUPUNU	TE
20	NATRONE MEANS	RB
3	JOHN CARNEY	K

DEFENSE

94	CHRIS MIMS	LE
98	SHAWN LEE	LT
93	REUBEN DAVIS	RT
91	LESLIE O'NEAL	RE
92	DAVID GRIGGS	OLB
57	DENNIS GIBSON	ILB
55	JUNIOR SEAU	ILB
21	DARRIEN GORDON	LCB
28	DWAYNE HARPER	RCB
	BO ORLANDO	SS
23	SHAUN GAYLE	FS
9	BRYAN WAGNER	P

Personnel changes made after April 22 may not be reflected.

Information provided by Bill Johnston, Director of Public Relations.

KANSAS CITY

CHIEFS

There will be no Joe in Kansas City this season. Quarterback Joe Montana retired after the 1994 season, leaving behind the only National Football League team to make the playoffs the past five years.

The Chiefs still have a good shot at a sixth straight playoff berth, however, with or without the player who may have sported the NFL's best-known face.

With Pro Bowl defenders like Neil Smith, Derrick Thomas and Dale Carter, the Chiefs' defense can win some games by itself. Much will depend on how well Steve Bono plays as Kansas City's new starting quarterback, however — assuming Montana doesn't decide to stage a last-minute un-retirement.

MICHAEL YELMAN

DALE CARTER

There will be a prominent new assistant coach on Kansas City's sideline. Coach Marty Schottenheimer hired longtime rival Art Shell as offensive line coach after Shell was fired by the Los Angeles Raiders.

"I couldn't beat these guys, so I thought I might as well join them," Shell says.

The Chiefs also have a new defensive coordinator in Gunther Cunningham, a former Raider assistant under Shell. Cunningham promises a more aggressive style than Dave Adolph, a read-and-react specialist who left to take over as defensive coordinator in San Diego.

Some of the old Chiefs remain. Running back Marcus Allen, 35, returns for his 14th NFL season, although his duties may be somewhat reduced in 1995.

But this will definitely be a transition year for Kansas City, a team that lost in the first round of the AFC playoffs to Miami. The Chiefs need players like wide receiver Lake Dawson and running back Greg Hill to become stars if they are to compete successfully in the tough AFC West.

QUARTERBACKS

Bono, who is exactly six years younger than Montana, started two regular-season games last season and threw for more than 300 yards each time — 323 yards against Denver and 314 against Miami.

Bono was Montana's backup in San Francisco as well and is 7–4 as a starter in his career. While with the 49ers, he was part of what was perhaps the most talented quarterbacking trio in NFL history: Montana, Steve Young and Bono.

Now, for the first time, Bono should have a team of his own for a full season. The biggest question of the Chiefs' season will be how well he handles that challenge.

Bono's backup will probably be either Matt Blundin, who got some playing time in the spring in the World League, or Rich Gannon.

RUNNING BACKS

Allen showed he still has strong legs in the season finale against the Raiders, rushing for 132 yards on 33 carries in Kansas City's playoff-clinching win. He is still healthy but may shoulder less burden this season.

When Allen joined the Chiefs two seasons ago, the immediate plan was to make him into a third-down back. That may be put into place this season, with Greg Hill a strong candidate for the starting job. Hill, Kansas City's flashy first-round pick in 1994, ran for 574 yards as a rookie. His 4.1-yard average led the squad. His long run was only 20 yards, but that will improve.

A good battle for the starting fullback job will rage throughout training camp. Donnell Bennett had a fine rookie year before injuring his right knee late in the season. He is the best blocker among the running backs. Kimble Anders, last year's starter, is a quality receiver (a team-high 67 catches in '94).

RECEIVERS

Willie Davis will probably be the primary target again. Davis led Kansas City in receiving yards for the third straight season with 822 and also put up team highs in receiving touchdowns (five) and average per catch (16.1).

The gripe about Chiefs receivers in the past has been that they are too small. Davis seems shorter than his listed 6–0 height. J.J. Birden (5–9), the other starter in 1994, signed with Atlanta as a free agent. The Chiefs don't mind too much because they have Lake Dawson, a 6–1, 204-pounder who was impressive last season as a rookie, collecting 37

JON SOOHOO

CHIEFS
90

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

receptions for 537 yards. Dawson had minor knee surgery in the off-season but should be completely healthy. Chris Penn, another youngster, may be the third receiver. Tight end Keith Cash returns after missing 10 games in '94 with a knee injury.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Chiefs are very solid up the middle. Center Tim Grunhard, right guard Will Shields and left guard Dave Szott were factors in propelling the Chiefs to the No. 5 rank in the NFL in total offense last season.

The tackle positions may be a little more problematic. Left tackle John Alt experienced some back problems in 1994, enough to keep him out of three games and break his string of 94 consecutive starts. He is supposed to be fit this season.

Starting right tackle Derrick Graham, who played left tackle to protect the quarterback's blind side when Alt was hurt, signed with Carolina as a free agent in the off-season.

Kansas City will insert free agent Jeff Criswell into the starting right tackle slot and hope Alt stays healthy. Ricky Siglar will start if Alt can't.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Chiefs can cause a lot of opposing quarterbacks nightmares here. Left end Neil Smith is a longtime sack specialist, and led the team with 11½ in 1994. The Chiefs are happy with Smith and ecstatic that right end Darren Mickell is also a threat to opponents.

Mickell had a great season in 1994, notching seven sacks and pressuring the quarterback 41 other times. When Mickell, Smith and linebacker Derrick Thomas come at the same time, it's very difficult for other teams to decide who to double-team.

Left tackle Joe Phillips pressured quarterbacks much more often than right tackle Dan Saleaumua. Kansas City needs some backup help on the line, and that role could be filled by Vaughn Booker, a former Canadian Football League player.

LINEBACKERS

Thomas is a remarkable player at outside linebacker. He made the Pro Bowl for the sixth time in as many seasons in 1994, recording one of his best overall years.

A great speed rusher, Thomas keyed Kansas City's win over San Francisco in the regular season with three sacks and a safety. He finished the season with 11 sacks, surpassing Art Still on the Chiefs' all-time list, and also forced six fumbles.

Middle linebacker Tracy Simien led the team in tackles in 1994 with 99. George Jamison, the other outside linebacker, usually is overshadowed by Thomas but is a quality player. The Chiefs could use some backup help. Tracy Rogers is essentially the only player behind the starting three with any experience.

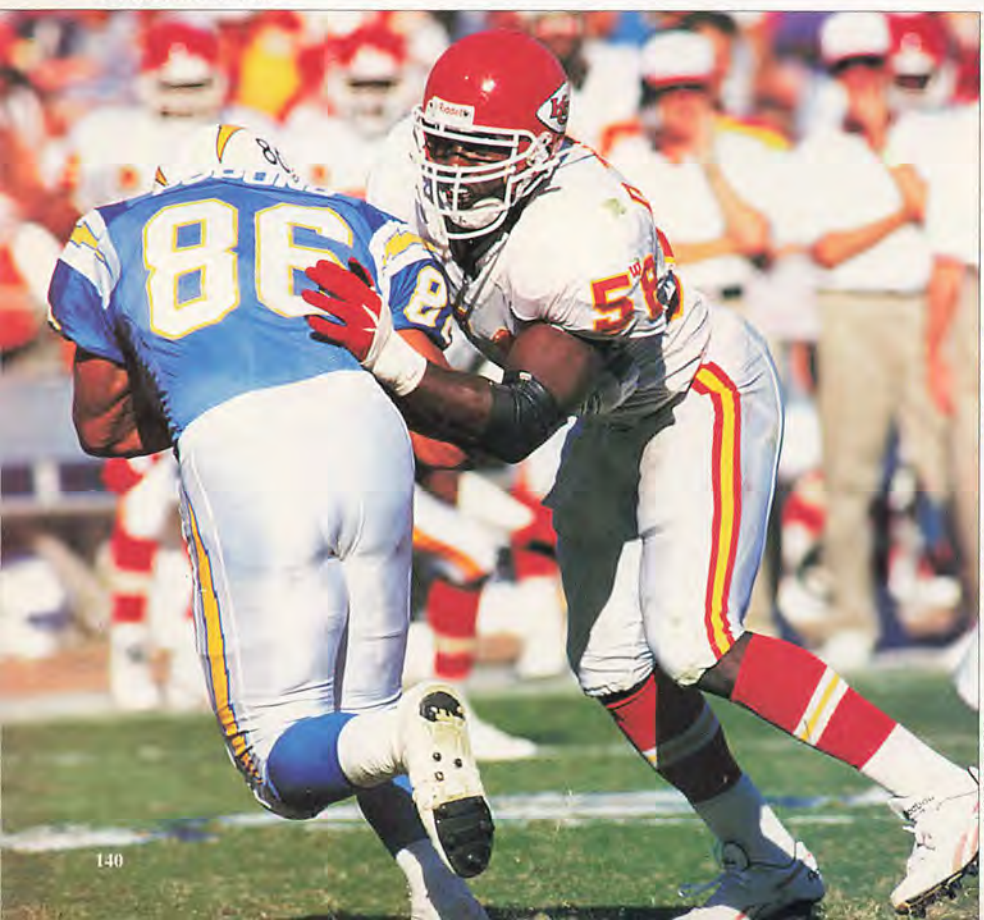
DEFENSIVE BACKS

In his third NFL season, right cornerback Dale Carter made the Pro Bowl for the first time despite getting just two interceptions. Carter was voted in because quarterbacks had sufficient respect for his abilities not to challenge him often. The Chiefs hope he will solidify one corner spot for years to come.

Mark Collins had a good first year as a Chief at left corner. However, the nine-year veteran will be challenged by James Hasty, a free-agent pickup.

Kansas City's problems in the secondary last season were mainly in the middle. The team's safeties were out of position too often. As a result, the team signed free-agent safeties Ronnie Lott and Brian Washington from the New York Jets. Strong safety

DERRICK THOMAS



DIANE JOHNSON

Numbers Keep Improving for Smith

Four straight Pro Bowls. Three consecutive seasons with double-digit sacks. No. 2 overall draft pick in 1988. One exultant home-run swing, in honor of friend George Brett, after every sack.

Those numbers add up to Kansas City defensive end Neil Smith. Smith managed a team-high 11½ sacks in 1994, despite dealing with separate injuries to his ankle, elbow and both thumbs. Even though he missed two games, his sack total was the third-highest in the AFC.

It was a courageous performance from one of Kansas City's best players. "I could have hung it up for the year after having surgery on both my thumbs, but that's just not me," Smith says.

Since a disappointing rookie year in 1988, Smith has steadily improved to become one of the NFL's best at his position.

He's had nothing handed to him. Smith grew up in a New Orleans housing project fighting dyslexia, a learning disability that made it difficult for him to read. He was a childhood delinquent, sometimes stealing bicycles and vandalizing property.

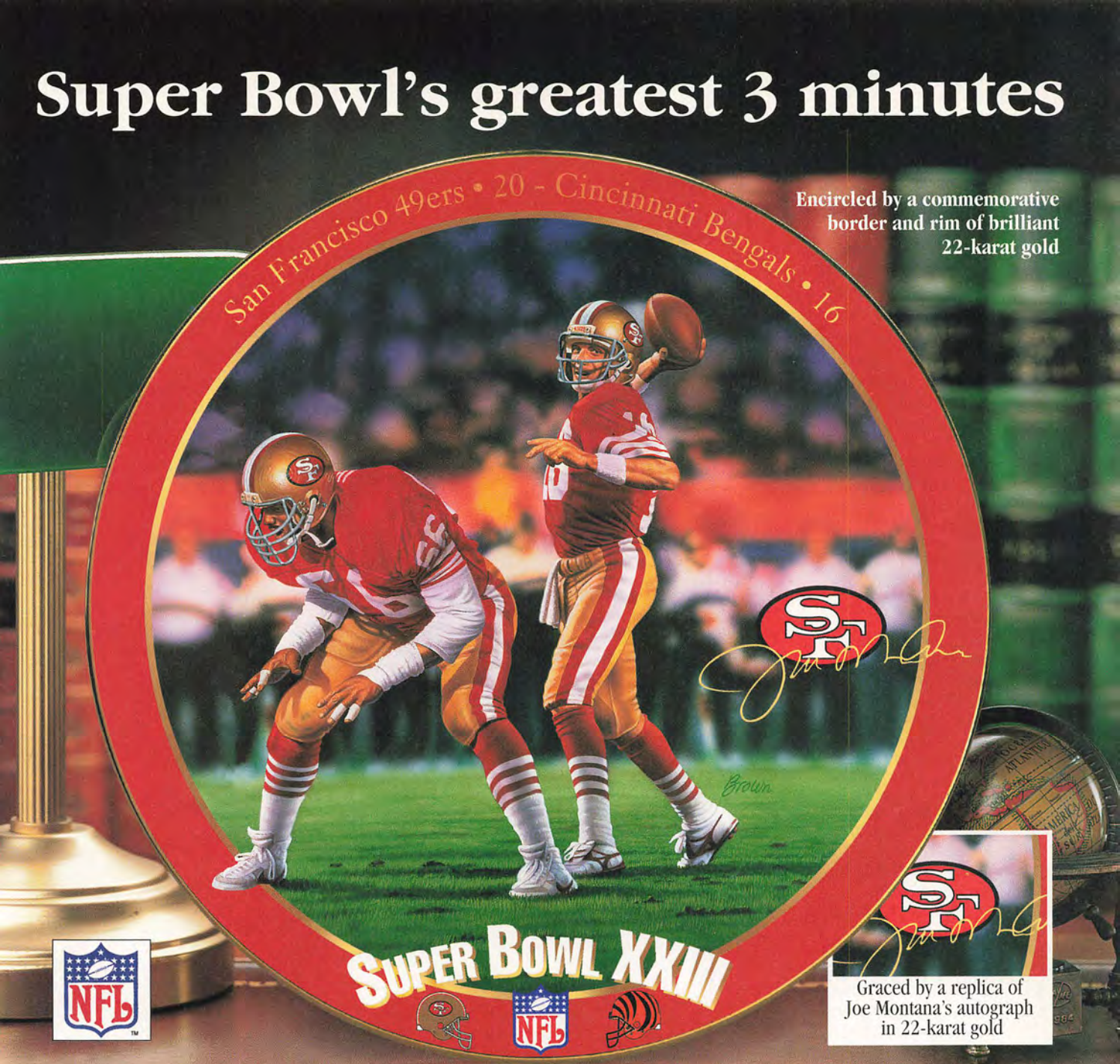
But his mother, Lutisha, set an example for him and tried to keep him out of trouble. Smith found athletics and starred in high school, although he weighed only 208 pounds and was better at basketball than football.

Nebraska saw his potential and offered him a scholarship. Four years later, he had put on 65 pounds and was drafted by the Chiefs.

One of the Chiefs' most community-minded players, Smith is a national spokesman for Yes I Can, a national foundation that encourages children with disabilities to reach their greatest potential.

This season Smith wants to stay injury-free. If he can do that, his numbers will only increase.

Super Bowl's greatest 3 minutes



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The 49ers needed to score—and fast. Only 3:10 remained in Super Bowl XXIII. They were 92 yards away from the end zone. Joe Montana came out throwing, completing 8 of 9 passes as San Francisco charged down the field. Finally, with 34 ticks left, he dropped back and coolly fired the game-winning TD.

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David Whitmore will have to fight to keep his job.

Free safety William White also could be on shaky ground. His is a dependable run supporter but is lacking in pass-defense skills. The Chiefs will work hard on increasing their interception total this season — they had only 12 in 1994.

KICKING GAME

Placekicker Lin Elliott returns after a solid season during which he made 83.3 percent of his attempts (25 of 30). Punter Louie Aguiar, like Elliott, made his mark with another team before joining the Chiefs. Elliott was the kicker during one of Dallas' Super Bowl seasons, and Aguiar punted three seasons for the New York Jets. Jon Vaughn probably will be the main kickoff returner. The punt-returning job likely will go to reserve wideout Danan Hughes.

BUILDING A WINNER

Kansas City will have to compensate for the loss of Montana by playing stout defense and getting solid play from Bono. The Chiefs need some young players to step in and perform and will have to improve their interception total of 1994. They also would benefit from developing a 1,000-yard, go-to receiver, be it Davis, Dawson or someone else. ■

CHIEFS ALL-TIME TEAM

Offense

WR	Otis Taylor (1965-75)
TE	Fred Arbanas (1960-65)
T	Jim Tyrer (1961-73)
G	Ed Budde (1963-76)
C	Jack Rudnay (1970-82)
G	Tom Condon (1974-84)
T	John Alt (1984-)
WR	Carlos Carson (1980-89)
QB	Len Dawson (1962-75)
RB	Abner Haynes (1960-64)
RB	Ed Podolak (1969-77)
K	Nick Lowery (1980-93)

Defense

DE	Jerry Mays (1961-70)
DT	Buck Buchanan (1963-75)
DT	Curley Culp (1968-74)
DE	Art Still (1978-87)
LB	Bobby Bell (1963-74)
LB	Willie Lanier (1967-77)
LB	Derrick Thomas (1989-)
CB	Emmitt Thomas (1966-78)
S	Johnny Robinson (1960-71)
S	Deron Cherry (1981-91)
CB	Albert Lewis (1983-93)
P	Jerrel Wilson (1963-77)

Special Teams - J.T. Smith (1978-84)

ROSTER

HEAD COACH: Marty Schottenheimer (NFL Record: 108–71–1)
1994 RECORD: 9–7, T 2nd AFC West

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	EXP.	COLLEGE
5	Aguiar, Louie	P	6–2	222	4	Utah State
56	Ale, Arnold	LB	6–3	234	1	UCLA
32	Allen, Marcus	RB	6–2	210	13	USC
76	Alt, John	T	6–8	307	11	Iowa
38	Anders, Kimble	FB	5–11	230	4	Houston
44	Anderson, Darren	CB	5–10	180	2	Toledo
30	Bennett, Donnell	FB	6–0	241	1	Miami (Fla.)
14	Blundin, Matt	QB	6–6	233	3	Virginia
13	Bono, Steve	QB	6–4	215	10	UCLA
99	Booker, Vaughn	DE	6–5	283	1	Cincinnati
34	Carter, Dale	CB	6–1	188	3	Tennessee
89	Cash, Keith	TE	6–4	248	3	Texas
25	Collins, Mark	CB	5–10	195	9	Cal St.–Ful.
	Criswell, Jeff	T	6–7	291	8	Graceland
50	Davis, Anthony	LB	6–0	231	2	Utah
84	Davis, Willie	WR	6–0	181	3	C. Ark.
80	Dawson, Lake	WR	6–1	204	1	Notre Dame
23	Dickerson, Ron	RB	6–0	225	2	Arkansas
2	Elliott, Lin	K	6–0	182	3	Texas Tech
59	Fields, Jaime	LB	5–11	236	2	Washington
	Gannon, Rich	QB	6–3	208	8	Delaware
87	Greene, Tracy	TE	6–5	282	1	Grambling
61	Grunhard, Tim	C	6–2	299	5	Notre Dame
53	Hamilton, Rick	LB	6–2	241	2	C. Fla.
	Hasty, James	CB	6–0	201	8	Wash. St.
29	Hill, Greg	RB	5–11	205	1	Texas A&M
83	Hughes, Danan	WR	6–2	206	2	Iowa
57	Jamison, George	LB	6–1	235	9	Cincinnati
46	Jones, Victor	FB	5–8	223	5	LSU
65	Knapp, Lindsay	G–T	6–6	290	2	Notre Dame
	Lott, Ronnie	FS	6–1	203	14	USC
51	Manusky, Greg	LB	6–1	233	7	Colgate
77	McDaniels, Pellom	DE	6–3	275	2	Oregon St.
92	Mickell, Darren	DE	6–4	284	3	Florida
96	Newton, Tim	DT	6–0	280	9	Florida
81	Penn, Chris	WR	6–0	198	1	Tulsa
75	Phillips, Joe	DT	6–5	300	9	SMU
52	Rogers, Tracy	LB	6–2	241	5	Fresno St.
97	Saleaumua, Dan	DT	6–0	300	8	Ariz. State
68	Shields, Will	G	6–3	300	2	Nebraska
66	Siglar, Ricky	T	6–7	307	3	S. Jose St.
54	Simien, Tracy	LB	6–1	250	4	TCU
90	Smith, Neil	DE	6–4	273	7	Nebraska
47	Stowers, Tommie	FB	6–3	240	3	Missouri
79	Szott, Dave	G	6–4	290	5	Penn State
27	Taylor, Jay	CB	5–10	170	6	S. Jose St.
24	Terry, Doug	S	5–11	204	3	Kansas
58	Thomas, Derrick	LB	6–3	247	6	Alabama
21	Vaughn, Jon	RB	5–9	203	4	Michigan
72	Villa, Danny	G	6–5	308	8	Ariz. State
98	Waldrop, Rob	DT	6–1	276	1	Arizona
82	Walker, Derrick	TE	6–0	244	5	Michigan
	Washington, Brian	S	6–1	206	7	Nebraska
26	Watson, Tim	S	6–1	215	2	Howard
35	White, William	S	5–10	200	7	Ohio State
55	Woolfork, Ronnie	LB	6–3	254	1	Colorado

1995 DRAFT PICKS

ROUND	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	Jenkins, Trezelle	OT	6–7	322	Michigan
3	Vanover, Tamarick	WR	5–11	213	Fla. St.
3	Dumas, Troy	LB	6–3	233	Nebraska
4	Stenstrom, Steve	QB	6–3	205	Stanford
5	Pelton, Mike	DT	6–3	283	Auburn
5	Willard, Jerrott	LB	6–2	233	California
6	Proby, Bryan	DT	6–5	283	Ariz. State
6	Barndt, Tom	C	6–3	290	Pittsburgh

1994 WRAP-UP

TEAM DATA

Total Offense:	355.8 yards per game
Total Defense:	312.5 yards per game
Scoring Offense:	19.9 points per game
Scoring Defense:	18.6 points per game

LEADERS

Passing:	Joe Montana, 299–493–3283–9, 16 TDs
Rushing:	Marcus Allen, 189 Att., 709 yds.., 7 TDs
Receiving:	Willie Davis, 51 rec., 822 yds., 5 TDS
Kicking:	Lin Elliott, 25–30 FGs, 30–30 XP, 105 points
Punting:	Louie Aguiar, 85 punts, 42.1 avg.
Kickoff Returns:	Ron Dickerson, 21 ret., 22.5 avg.
Punt Returns:	Danan Hughes, 27 ret., 7.1 avg.
Tackles:	Tracy Simien, 99, 65 solo
Sacks:	Neil Smith, 11.5
Interceptions:	Charles Mincy, 3 for 49 yds.

RESULTS

at New Orleans	30–17	San Diego	13–14
San Francisco	24–17	Cleveland	20–13
at Atlanta	30–10	at Seattle	9–10
L.A. Rams	0–16	Denver (OT)	17–20
at San Diego	6–20	at Miami	28–45
at Denver	31–28	Houston	31–9
Seattle	38–23	at L.A. Raiders	19–9
at Buffalo	10–44	**Playoffs**	
L.A. Raiders	13–3	at Miami	17–27

PROJECTED STARTING LINEUP

OFFENSE

80	LAKE DAWSON	SE
76	JOHN ALT	LT
79	DAVE SZOTT	LG
61	TIM GRUNHARD	C
68	WILL SHIELDS	RG
	JEFF CRISWELL	RT
89	KEITH CASH	TE
84	WILLIE DAVIS	FL
13	STEVE BONO	QB
38	KIMBLE ANDERS	FB
32	MARCUS ALLEN	HB
2	LIN ELLIOTT	K

DEFENSE

90	NEIL SMITH	LE
75	JOE PHILLIPS	LT
97	DAN SALEAUMUA	RT
92	DARREN MICKELL	RE
58	DERRICK THOMAS	OLB
54	TRACY SIMIEN	MLB
57	GEORGE JAMISON	OLB
25	MARK COLLINS	LCB
34	DALE CARTER	RCB
	RONNIE LOTT	SS
35	WILLIAM WHITE	FS
5	LOUIE AGUIAR	P

Personnel changes made after April 22 may not be reflected.

Information provided by Bob Moore, Director of Public Relations.

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LOS ANGELES

RAIDERS

What do you do if your team is supposed to have the AFC's best talent in 1994 and you don't even make the playoffs?

If you're Los Angeles Raiders owner Al Davis, you fire your coach.

That's why Art Shell is gone and why the Raiders' sideline will be patrolled this season by Mike White, a former Raiders assistant and onetime head coach at Illinois and California in the collegiate ranks.

Under Shell, the Raiders were known generally for underachieving and specifically for drawing penalties. Los Angeles set a National Football League record last season with 156 penalties, or nearly 10 per game.

Feeling that the Raiders had enough talent to get to the Super Bowl in terms of their players, Davis tinkered primarily with the coaching staff in the off-season, after the Raiders went 9–7 in 1994. Tom Walsh, the Raiders' offensive coordinator in 1994, was removed.

JON SOOHOO

STEVE WISNIEWSKI

The Raiders will try to push their 19th-overall NFL offensive rating into the league's top 10 by employing three coaches known for their offensive backgrounds: head coach White, assistant Jim Fassel (formerly of Denver) and Joe Bugel, now the assistant coach/offense and formerly Arizona's head coach.

White, 59, has supervised a fleet of fine quarterbacks during his career, including Jim Plunkett at Stanford, Steve Bartkowski at California, and Jack Trudeau and Jeff George at Illinois. White says he agrees with the Raiders' longtime "vertical passing" philosophy, which basically means throw deep as much as you can, but notes that he will try to achieve that goal through a wider variety of formations.

"There's a high expectancy here," says White. "The words 'Raiders' and 'commitment' aren't just words on a wall. When I was at Illinois, I was always proud when people called us the Raiders of the Big Ten."

QUARTERBACKS

Jeff Hostetler, 34, had a decent 1994 season. He finished sixth in the AFC in passing efficiency, throwing 20 touchdown passes with 16 interceptions. His performance may improve now that Walsh is gone. Hostetler has worked with Fassel before, when both were with the New York Giants.

Hoss, renowned for his toughness, would prefer to hook up with another receiver besides Tim Brown when it's crunch time. Hostetler's reliance on the gifted wideout as a security blanket allows opposing defenses to stack their coverage accordingly. Overall, though, the Raiders continue to be happy with Hostetler.

The backup situation is uncertain. Vince Evans just keeps hanging on, but he turns 40 when training camp begins. It's more likely that Billy Joe Hobert will emerge as the main support to Hostetler.

RUNNING BACKS

Harvey Williams was the happiest surprise of 1994, not even starting until midway through the season and then storming to 983 rushing yards. Trade talk has surfaced around the former LSU star, but the Raiders re-signed Williams, though only for one year.

Fullback is something of a problem. The Raiders lured Tom Rathman away from San Francisco last season and figured to get solid stats from him in both rushing and receiving. However, Rathman couldn't crack the 200-yard mark in either category. In the off-season, the Raiders signed Derrick Fenner, who rushed for 468 yards with Cincinnati last year.

RECEIVERS

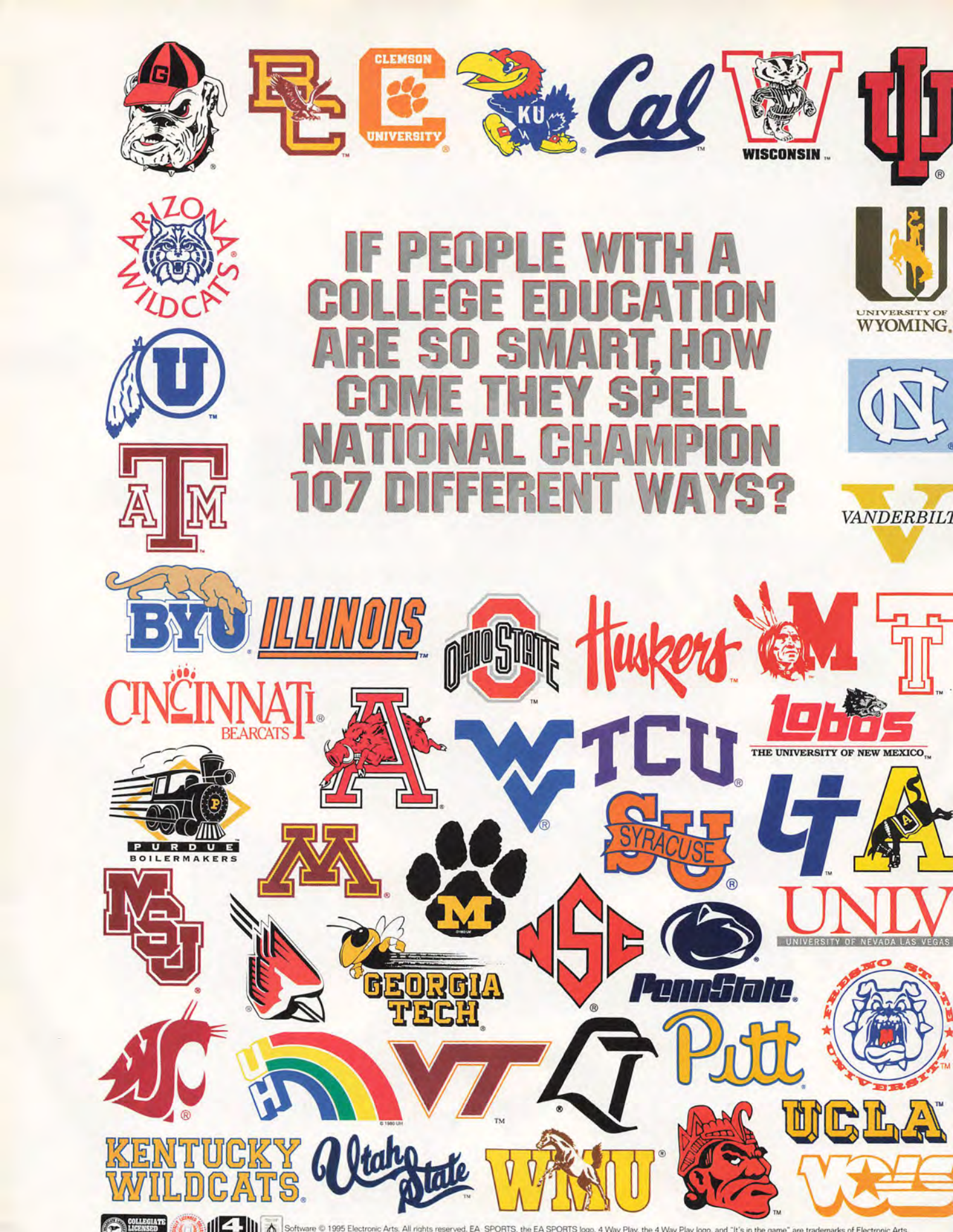
Brown was the best player the Raiders had in 1994. He had a career year, with 89 receptions for 1,309 yards and nine touchdowns. A Pro Bowl starter, Brown should still be around to do the same thing again this season despite a withering verbal attack leveled at Al Davis after the firing of Shell in February. He is simply too important to this team to jettison for any reason.

At the other wideout spot, Los Angeles has

LAYNE MURDOCH

TIM BROWN

RAIDERS
91



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LOS ANGELES RAIDERS

a couple of speedsters. James Jett and Raghib "Rocket" Ismail can fly. Ismail scored a modest five receiving TDs and gained 513 yards through the air, but Jett caught only 15 passes. Alexander Wright jetted to the Los Angeles Rams via free agency.

The Raiders hope to upgrade their tight end position. Andrew Glover had an average year, catching 33 passes. Kerry Cash, with only 16 receptions for Indianapolis, was a free-agent signee.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Raiders made a crucial off-season signing when they got Steve Wisniewski to agree to stay with the team by handing him a $7.5 million contract over the next three seasons. Wisniewski, the team's left guard, is a Pro Bowler and the best lineman the Raiders have.

Wisniewski teams on the left side with tackle Gerald Perry, the guardian of Hostetler's blind side. He didn't do that great a job in pass protection, but neither did the entire Raider line — the team allowed 50 sacks in 1994. Hostetler's seven-step drops and the receiver corps' 40-yard downfield routes invite the occasional sack, however.

At center, the reliable Don Mosebar returns for his 13th season. Right guard Kevin Gogan is a valuable player who can fill in anywhere on the line. Right tackle is uncertain, with the Raiders questioning the quality of Greg Skrepenak's play. Veteran Bruce Wilkerson could figure in.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Raiders' defense ranked 10th in the NFL. Tackle Chester McGlockton returns off his best season, having led Los Angeles with 9½ sacks. Jerry Ball, the other tackle, gives the Raiders two 300-plus-pounders anchoring the middle.

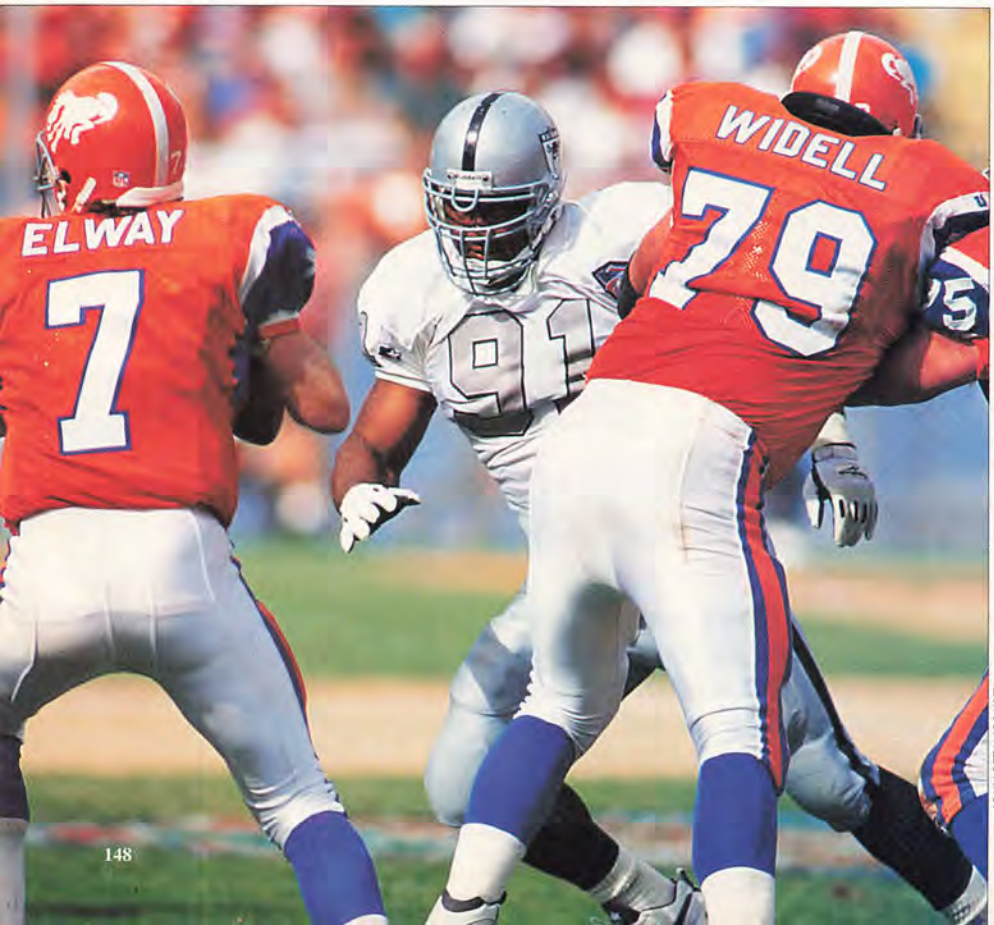
On the outside, Anthony Smith and Nolan Harrison play the end positions. Smith's sack total dropped to six after averaging 12 in his first three seasons. Harrison had five sacks and recovered a couple of fumbles. Four-time Pro Bowl linebacker Pat Swilling came over from Detroit and will be viewed as a defensive end.

LINEBACKERS

The Raiders have a mini-youth movement at these positions. Middle linebacker Greg Biekert, a seventh-round draft choice in 1993, started for the first time in '94 and led the team in tackles with 99.

Rob Fredrickson, in his first year, quickly moved into the starting lineup and established himself as the Raiders' best cover linebacker. He contributed 81 tackles, third on the team, and got to the quarterback three times.

CHESTER McGLOCKTON



JOHN BETANCOURT

Guaranteed to Happen: Al Davis Querying Coach

Owner Al Davis looms above the Los Angeles Raiders like a silver moon.

Davis, who turns 66 on July 4, has run this organization for the past 32 years. The perception is that everything the Raiders do has his imprint, from stadium leases to fourth-down calls.

Davis says he is not this team's unofficial head coach, although that is basically what star wide receiver Tim Brown charged in an off-season diatribe after Davis fired Art Shell. Brown said he wished Davis would just go ahead and name himself coach, since that is what Davis does anyway.

Davis says that the idea that he pulls the puppet strings is farfetched.

"Oh, I might see something during a game and have a person pass on a suggestion," Davis says. "But the head coach is in charge. I've never gone to a staff meeting. I'm not on the sidelines.

"It's my team. I'm not afraid to tell you what I think. I like to think I know what's going on. But how can I be the coach? It's inconceivable."

White says he can deal with Davis' suggestions because Davis "is the most knowledgeable owner in the game."

Long known as a rogue owner who is liable to disagree with anything the traditionalist owners want, Davis has been a bit more establishment-oriented of late. He was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1992, and the wounds from his successful fight with the NFL to move the Raiders from Oakland to Los Angeles in the early 1980s appear to have healed.

Whether his football team has healed itself from its latest disappointing season is another matter. But one thing is certain: Al Davis will be watching the Raiders. Closely.

With those two youngsters, the Raiders want more experience at right outside linebacker. Free agent Winston Moss left, so the Raiders will have to hunt down a free agent of their own or else go with another kid like Rob Holmberg from Penn State, another '94 draftee.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

In cornerback Terry McDaniel, the Raiders have an extremely impressive performer in an otherwise average secondary. McDaniel made seven of the team's 12 interceptions last season and also recovered a team-high three fumbles. The Pro Bowler turned three of those 10 turnovers into touchdowns. His interception total has increased every season since 1992.

Albert Lewis will man the other corner. Lewis turns 35 in October, but the Raiders feel he's still capable of getting the job done, despite the fact he had no pickoffs in

'94. The Raiders lost free-agent Lionel Washington, their nickel cornerback, to Denver.

Free safety Eddie Anderson proved to be a good tackler, placing second on the team, but contributed no interceptions. Strong safety, not a particularly strong position, has Derrick Hoskins starting again.

KICKING GAME

The Raiders are blessed with two of the better returners in the game. With Brown in on punts and Ismail on kickoffs, they should start almost every possession with decent field position. Brown was second in the AFC with a 12.2-yard average.

The two Jeffs also are back. Kicker Jaeger scored 35 fewer points than in '93, but he also got fewer chances to kick.

RAIDERS ALL-TIME TEAM

Offense

WR	Fred Biletnikoff (1965-78)
TE	Dave Casper (1974-80, 1984)
T	Art Shell (1968-82)
G	Gene Upshaw (1967-82)
C	Jim Otto (1960-74)
G	Steve Wisniewski (1989-)
T	Harry Schuh (1965-1970)
WR	Cliff Branch (1972-85)
QB	Ken Stabler (1970-79)
RB	Marcus Allen (1982-92)
RB	Clemon Daniels (1961-67)
K	George Blanda (1967-75)

Defense

DE	Howie Long (1981-93)
DT	Tom Keating (1966-72)
DT	Otis Sistrunk (1972-79)
DE	Greg Townsend (1983-93)
LB	Ted Hendricks (1975-83)
LB	Dan Connors (1964-74)
LB	Rod Martin (1977-88)
CB	Willie Brown (1967-78)
S	Jack Tatum (1971-79)
S	Dave Grayson (1965-70)
CB	Lester Hayes (1977-86)
P	Ray Guy (1973-86)

Special Teams - Bo Roberson (1962-65)

Los Angeles re-signed punter Gossett, who led the AFC with a 43.9 average but also topped the conference in touchbacks (15).

BUILDING A WINNER

The Raiders think they have the pieces in place for another playoff bid. Whether a coaching shakeup is enough, however, is questionable.

This is a team still looking for a reliable second receiver to take pressure off Brown. In addition, Williams needs to steer clear of injury and produce another season like '94. Los Angeles also must find a McDaniel clone for the secondary. ■

ROSTER

HEAD COACH: Mike White (NFL Record: 0–0)
1994 RECORD: 9–7, T 2nd AFC West

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	EXP.	COLLEGE
33	Anderson, Eddie	S	6–1	210	9	Ft. Val. St.
93	Ball, Jerry	DT	6–1	315	8	SMU
24	Bates, Patrick	S	6–3	215	2	Texas A&M
49	Bender, Wes	HB	5–10	235	1	USC
54	Biekert, Greg	LB	6–2	235	2	Colorado
81	Brown, Tim	WR	6–0	185	7	Notre Dame
58	Bruce, Aundray	DE	6–5	260	7	Auburn
	Cash, Kerry	TE	6–4	252	4	Texas
70	Davis, Scott	DE	6–7	285	5	Illinois
11	Evans, Vince	QB	6–2	215	15	USC
	Fenner, Derrick	RB	6–3	228	6	N.C.
55	Folston, James	LB	6–3	235	1	NE La.
47	Frank, Donald	CB	6–0	195	5	Win.-Sal.
53	Fredrickson, Rob	LB	6–4	240	1	Mich. St.
87	Glover, Andrew	TE	6–6	245	4	Grambling
66	Gogan, Kevin	G	6–7	315	8	Washington
7	Gossett, Jeff	P	6–2	190	13	Eastern Ill.
74	Harrison, Nolan	DE	6–5	285	4	Indiana
80	Hobbs, Daryl	WR	6–2	175	2	Pacific
12	Hobert, Billy Joe	QB	6–3	220	2	Washington
57	Holmberg, Rob	LB	6–3	225	1	Penn State
20	Hoskins, Derrick	S	6–2	200	3	So. Miss.
15	Hostetler, Jeff	QB	6–3	215	11	W. Va.
86	Ismail, Raghib	WR	5–11	175	2	Notre Dame
18	Jaeger, Jeff	K	5–11	190	8	Washington
64	Jenkins, Robert	T	6–5	295	9	UCLA
82	Jett, James	WR	5–10	165	2	W. Va.
27	Jones, Calvin	RB	5–11	190	1	Nebraska
52	Jones, Mike	LB	6–1	230	4	Missouri
25	Land, Dan	S	6–0	195	7	Albany St.
29	Lewis, Albert	CB	6–2	195	12	Grambling
36	McDaniel, Terry	CB	5–10	180	7	Tennessee
91	McGlockton, Chester	DT	6–4	310	3	Clemson
21	Montgomery, Tyrone	RB	6–0	190	2	Mississippi
72	Mosebar, Don	C	6–6	295	12	USC
71	Perry, Gerald	T	6–6	290	7	Southern
44	Rathman, Tom	RB	6–1	230	9	Nebraska
95	Robbins, Austin	DT	6–6	290	1	N.C.
78	Skrepenak, Greg	T	6–6	300	2	Michigan
94	Smith, Anthony	DE	6–3	260	5	Arizona
77	Stephens, Rich	G	6–7	305	2	Tulsa
	Swilling, Pat	DE-LB	6–3	242	9	Ga. Tech
37	Trapp, James	CB	6–0	180	2	Clemson
67	Turk, Dan	C	6–4	290	10	Wisconsin
51	Wallace, Aaron	LB	6–3	235	5	Texas A&M
90	White, Alberto	DE	6–3	245	1	Texas So.
68	Wilkerson, Bruce	T	6–5	295	8	Tennessee
22	Williams, Harvey	RB	6–2	210	4	LSU
88	Williams, Jamie	TE	6–4	250	12	Nebraska
76	Wisniewski, Steve	G	6–4	285	6	Penn State

1995 DRAFT PICKS

ROUND	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	Kaufman, Napoleon	RB	5-9	175	Washington
2	Robbins, Barret	C	6-4	292	TCU
3	Aska, Joe	RB	5-10	230	Cent. Ok.
4	Morton, Mike	LB	6-3	230	N.C.
5	Dyson, Matt	LB	6-5	256	Michigan
5	Kysar, Jeff	OT	6-7	321	Ariz. St.
6	Herring, Eli	OT	6-8	335	BYU

1994 WRAP-UP

TEAM DATA

Total Offense:	298.6 yards per game
Total Defense:	308.9 yards per game
Scoring Offense:	18.9 points per game
Scoring Defense:	20.4 points per game

LEADERS

Passing:	Jeff Hostetler, 263–454–3334–16, 20 TDs
Rushing:	Harvey Williams, 282 att., 983 yds., 4 TDs
Receiving:	Tim Brown, 89 rec., 1309 yds., 9 TDs
Kicking:	Jeff Jaeger, 22–28 FGs, 31–31 XP, 97 points
Punting:	Jeff Gossett, 77 punts, 43.9 avg.
Kickoff Returns:	Raghib Ismail, 43 ret., 21.5 avg., 1 TD
Punt Returns:	Tim Brown, 40 ret., 12.2 avg.
Tackles:	Eddie Anderson, 88, 65 solo
Sacks:	Chester McGlockton, 9.5
Interceptions:	Terry McDaniel, 7 for 103 yds., 2 TDs

RESULTS

at San Francisco	14–44	at Kansas City	3–13
Seattle	9–38	at L.A. Rams	20–17
at Denver	48–16	New Orleans	24–19
San Diego	24–26	Pittsburgh	3–21
at New England	21–17	at San Diego	24–17
at Miami (OT)	17–20	Denver	23–13
Atlanta	30–17	at Seattle	17–16
Houston	17–14	Kansas City	9–19

PROJECTED STARTING LINEUP

OFFENSE

82	JAMES JETT	WR
71	GERALD PERRY	LT
76	STEVE WISNIEWSKI	LG
72	DON MOSEBAR	C
66	KEVIN GOGAN	RG
78	GREG SKREPENAK	RT
	KERRY CASH	TE
81	TIM BROWN	WR
15	JEFF HOSTETLER	QB
44	TOM RATHMAN	FB
22	HARVEY WILLIAMS	RB
18	JEFF JAEGER	K

DEFENSE

	PAT SWILLING	LE
93	JERRY BALL	LT
91	CHESTER McGLOCKTON	RT
94	ANTHONY SMITH	RE
53	ROB FREDRICKSON	LLB
54	GREG BIEKERT	MLB
51	AARON WALLACE	RLB
36	TERRY McDANIEL	LCB
29	ALBERT LEWIS	RCB
24	PATRICK BATES	SS
33	EDDIE ANDERSON	FS
7	JEFF GOSSETT	P

Personnel changes made after April 22 may not be reflected.

Information provided by Raiders Public Relations.

DENVER BRONCOS

The Denver Broncos were practically defenseless in 1994. They were last in both total defense and pass defense, which, coupled with an 0–4 start, was the reason the team couldn't make the playoffs after being tabbed the preseason favorite in the AFC West.

Denver's 7–9 record finished Wade Phillips as coach. To succeed him, club owner Pat Bowlen lured Mike Shanahan from San Francisco, where Shanahan had worked for three years as offensive coordinator.

Although Shanahan is known as an offensive genius, he rolled up his sleeves and started sifting through the defensive carnage first. The Broncos recorded just 23 sacks last season, so Shanahan signed free agents James Jones and Michael Dean Perry to provide a better pass rush up the middle. More defensive signings quickly followed. Cornerback Lionel Washington, safety Tim Hauck and linebacker Britt Hager were some of the notable players who joined.

DIANE JOHNSON

SHANNON SHARPE

Shanahan is trying to rebuild the defense in part to help himself and in part to help his close friend, Denver quarterback John Elway.

"I want to give John one more chance at the Super Bowl before he retires," Shanahan said shortly after being hired. "I really think we can turn it around in two years."

Elway and Shanahan are longtime friends, dating from Shanahan's two stints as a Denver assistant coach from 1984-87 and 1989-91.

Elway was one of the happiest men around when Shanahan's plane landed. Denver's offense was ranked sixth in the National Football League, but that should improve with the Elway-Shanahan team. Wide receiver Anthony Miller and tight end Shannon Sharpe had 1,000-yard seasons, so there is plenty of talent with which to work.

But many problems remain in Denver, where the Broncos suffered only their fourth losing season in the past 22 years.

Bronco quarterbacks were sacked an astounding 55 times in 1994, so the offensive line is a big question mark. And the defense will require an adjustment period. Coordinator Greg Robinson and several defensive starters will be new.

QUARTERBACKS

Elway was thrown around like a rag doll. He suffered 46 of Denver's 55 sacks, with Hugh Millen receiving the other nine.

The constant beating wore on Elway. In his 12 seasons, he has missed just eight starts due to injury, but two of those came late last season when Denver was still in the wild-card hunt.

Elway's strained left knee is fine now. And although his scrambling has slowed some, Denver's fourth all-time leading rusher (2,670 rushing yards) is still among the league's most dangerous quarterbacks. From 1984-94, Elway has been the winningest quarterback in the game in terms of victories (108–66–1). He still doesn't have a Super Bowl ring, of course, but Shanahan will do everything he can to change that.

Millen was a decent backup for Elway, but the Broncos hope he doesn't have to play as much this season. Millen completed 20 straight passes over a two-game span, but Denver lost both games he started. Free agent Bill Musgrave came over from San Francisco in the off-season and should challenge Millen for the No. 2 quarterback job.

RUNNING BACKS

Rod Bernstine's health is a question mark. A shoulder injury forced him out of the Broncos' final two games in 1993, and he missed three-fourths of 1994 with a serious knee injury sustained in Game 4.

Bernstine will be challenged for the starting job by Leonard Russell and former free agent Aaron Craver from Miami, who has the breakaway speed the Broncos have missed. Russell gained 620 yards rushing and led Denver with nine touchdowns in his first season as a Bronco.

The third-down back is Glyn Milburn, who enjoyed a fine second year in which he caught 77 passes for 549 yards and also returned punts and kicks. The fullback is Derrick Clark, who scored two touchdowns in

STEVE BEYER

Riddell
Wilson
COMMISSIONER
NFL

DENVER BRONCOS

Denver's last game but is not very explosive and is used primarily as a blocking back.

RECEIVERS

The Broncos have a fleet, sure-fingered receiving corps. Miller finished sixth in the AFC with 1,107 receiving yards. He started the season slowly but came on with three straight 100-yard receiving games toward the end. Miller is Denver's primary deep threat.

Sharpe's 87 receptions led the Broncos. His total was second among NFL tight ends behind New England's Ben Coates (96). Sharpe made his third straight Pro Bowl and seems destined for more.

Mike Pritchard's first season as a Bronco was short-circuited after he lacerated a kidney, but he should be back and starting alongside Miller at wide receiver. The third receiver may be Ed McCaffrey, a free-agent pickup from San Francisco.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

This group needs to prove itself. Gary Zimmerman made his fifth Pro Bowl at left tackle, but many questioned the selection since Denver gave up so many sacks.

Zimmerman will stay put, but the rest of the line is in a state of flux. Center Dave Widell has gone to Jacksonville via free agency. Either veteran Keith Kartz, a former regular who is recovering from off-season knee surgery, or second-year man Tom Nalen could fill the vacancy at center. Right guard Brian Habib has been characterized as a high-priced free-agent bust, but he'll start. Right tackle Kirk Scrafford joined San Francisco as a free agent. Restricted free agent Russell Freeman will replace him unless the Broncos fail to match a possible offer from another team. Free agent Mark Schlereth (Washington) signed a three-year, $2.4 million contract and will replace Jon Melander as the starter at left guard.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Broncos' biggest defensive problem was in the line. Opposing quarterbacks often had time to eat lunch in the pocket before picking out their receivers. Perry and Jones, former teammates at Cleveland and both in the 290-pound ragne, are supposed to provide the solution. Free-agent signee Mike Lodish (Buffalo) will provide depth.

The end positions are not nearly as set. Dan Williams, a first-round pick in 1993 for Denver, has been a disappointment so far as a tackle and may need to move to an end position. Shane Dronett had six sacks in '94 at left end and may return there. The Broncos will need to get Simon Fletcher to the quarterback in some way, but it's likely that Fletcher will move back from end to linebacker before the season begins.

MICHAEL DEAN PERRY

LARRY KINKER

Broncos Coach Joins Pal John

The whiz kid is back, a little older, graying at the temples, but still known for offensive wizardry.

Mike Shanahan, 42, is the coach who is supposed to revitalize the Broncos and undo all the damage caused by the 1994 season.

A former Bronco offensive coordinator, Shanahan held the same position with San Francisco the last three years. Since the 49ers finished first, first and second in the NFL in total offense during those three years, he became the league's hottest head-coaching commodity.

The Philadelphia job didn't interest Shanahan. He also turned down San Francisco's offer of $1 million a year to keep coaching the offense, with a promise that he would replace George Seifert when Seifert eventually retired.

Shanahan left all that to come back to Denver, where he and veteran quarterback John Elway forged a special relationship in the late 1980s. Shanahan is anxious to make his own mark on a team that was last in total offense last season.

He'll get the chance to do that in 1995 for the same club that fired him in 1991 after he and Elway slyly conspired to "script," or pre-call, the first 20 plays in each Denver game. Head coach Dan Reeves called most of the plays with Elway's input. When Reeves found out that Shanahan had gone behind the coach's back with Elway, he fired him.

This time around, Broncos owner Pat Bowlen has promised Shanahan full control of all personnel decisions. Shanahan, signed to a seven-year contract, replaces Wade Phillips, whose final Bronco team was 7–9.

Said Reeves, who feuded with Shanahan but respects his former offensive coordinator's talent: "I'm surprised this wasn't done two years ago. As far as the Broncos are concerned, he's the one who should say what has to be done."

Now he will.

LINEBACKERS

Fletcher has led his team in sacks for seven straight years, the only player in the NFL to do so. But he had a subpar total of seven sacks in 1994 at end. Fletcher seems more effective blitzing from an outside linebacker slot.

Denver is without Mike Croel, the fourth overall draft pick in 1991. The Broncos waived Croel when he failed to come up with a single sack in '94 and often looked lost.

Hager, a starter in Philadelphia for the past five years, has arrived and is expected to stabilize the linebacking situation. Elijah Alexander will start somewhere, probably at one of the outside spots. Alexander had a fine season, leading the Broncos in tackles with 172.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Steve Atwater is still a standout but was asked to do too much last season. Washington was signed away from the Raiders. He is 34 but can still cover better than anyone the Broncos had last season.

Ray Crockett probably will play the left corner and Washington the right. Green Bay's Hauck was signed as a free agent to play safety and may start beside Atwater, replacing longtime Bronco Dennis Smith.

KICKING GAME

Placekicker Jason Elam was consistent, making all 22 of his attempts inside the 40-yard line. His 119 points ranked third in the NFL, and his 30 field goals were a Denver record.

BRONCOS ALL-TIME TEAM

Offense

WR	Lionel Taylor (1960-66)
TE	Riley Odoms (1972-83)
T	Dave Studdard (1979-88)
G	Keith Bishop (1980, 1982-89)
C	Bill Bryan (1977-88)
G	Paul Howard (1973-75, 1977-86)
T	Ken Lanier (1981-92)
WR	Haven Moses (1972-81)
QB	John Elway (1983-)
RB	Floyd Little (1967-75)
RB	Otis Armstrong (1973-80)
K	Jim Turner (1971-79)

Defense

DE	Rich Jackson (1967-72)
DT	Bud McFadin (1960-63)
DE	Rulon Jones (1980-88)
LB	Tom Jackson (1973-86)
LB	Randy Gradishar (1974-83)
LB	Karl Mecklenburg (1983-)
LB	Simon Fletcher (1985-)
CB	Billy Thompson (1969-81)
S	Dennis Smith (1981-)
S	Steve Atwater (1989-)
CB	Louis Wright (1975-86)
P	Mike Horan (1986-92)

Special Teams - Rick Upchurch (1975-83)

Tom Rouen averaged 42.9 yards per punt, and his 37.1-yard net average led the league. Milburn is the primary kick returner. This isn't one of the Broncos' worries.

BUILDING A WINNER

Denver needs to block better and rush harder. If Perry and Jones provide more of a pass rush, the Broncos will improve from their No. 28 total defense rating.

But the offensive line must get better and take pressure off Elway, who ran for his life far too often last season. Shanahan may not have enough talent to get Denver back into the playoffs until his second season, but his hiring was a good step. ■

ROSTER

HEAD COACH: Mike Shanahan (NFL Record: 8-12)
1994 RECORD: 7-9, 4th AFC West

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	EXP.	COLLEGE
57	Aldridge, Allen	LB	6-1	245	1	Houston
58	Alexander, Elijah	LB	6-2	230	3	Kansas St.
27	Atwater, Steve	S	6-3	217	6	Arkansas
33	Bernstine, Rod	RB	6-3	238	8	Texas A&M
82	Bonner, Melvin	WR	6-3	207	2	Baylor
23	Bradford, Ronnie	CB	5-10	188	2	Colorado
60	Burch, Joe	C	6-2	280	1	Texas So.
56	Burns, Keith	LB	6-2	245	1	Okla. St.
28	By'not'e, Butler	CB	5-9	190	1	Ohio State
89	Carswell, Dwayne	TE	6-3	261	1	Liberty
43	Clark, Derrick	RB	6-1	235	1	Evangel
29	Craver, Aaron	RB	6-0	220	4	Fresno St.
39	Crockett, Ray	CB	5-10	185	6	Baylor
99	Dronett, Shane	DE	6-6	275	3	Texas
97	Drozdov, Darren	NT	6-3	280	2	Maryland
1	Elam, Jason	K	5-11	192	2	Hawaii
7	Elway, John	QB	6-3	215	12	Stanford
88	Evans, Jerry	TE	6-4	250	2	Toledo
73	Fletcher, Simon	LB	6-6	240	10	Houston
68	Freeman, Russell	T	6-7	290	3	Ga. Tech
24	Fuller, Randy	CB	5-9	173	1	Tennessee
2	Furrer, Will	QB	6-3	210	3	Va. Tech
75	Habib, Brian	G	6-7	299	7	Washington
54	Hager, Britt	LB	6-1	225	7	Texas
40	Hall, Darryl	S	6-2	210	2	Washington
96	Hasselbach, Harald	DE	6-6	280	1	Washington
37	Hauck, Tim	S	5-11	185	6	Montana
21	Hilliard, Randy	CB	5-11	165	5	NW La.
50	Jacobs, Ray	LB	6-2	244	1	N.C.
	Johnson, Vance	WR	5-11	185	10	Arizona
93	Jones, James	DT	6-2	290	5	N. Iowa
31	Jones, Rondell	S	6-2	210	2	N.C.
72	Kartz, Keith	C	6-4	270	R	California
80	Kimbrough, Tony	WR	6-2	192	2	Jackson St.
97	Lodish, Mike	DT	6-3	280	6	UCLA
78	Maggs, Don	T	6-5	290	9	Tulane
87	McCaffrey, Ed	WR	6-5	215	5	Stanford
77	Mecklenburg, Karl	LB	6-3	235	12	Minnesota
61	Meeks, Bob	G	6-2	279	3	Auburn
22	Milburn, Glyn	RB	5-8	177	2	Stanford
17	Millen, Hugh	QB	6-5	216	9	Washington
83	Miller, Anthony	WR	5-11	190	8	Tennessee
14	Musgrave, Bill	QB	6-2	205	5	Oregon
66	Nalen, Tom	C	6-2	280	1	Bost. Coll.
91	Oshodin, Willie	DE	6-4	265	3	Villanova
95	Perry, Michael Dean	DT	6-1	285	8	Clemson
81	Pritchard, Mike	WR	5-10	190	4	Colorado
38	Rivers, Reggie	RB	6-1	215	4	SW Tex. St.
94	Robinson, Jeff	DE	6-4	265	2	Idaho
16	Rouen, Tom	P	6-3	215	2	Colorado
69	Schlereth, Mark	G	6-3	278	7	Idaho
74	Schultz, Bill	OL	6-5	305	6	USC
84	Sharpe, Shannon	TE	6-2	230	5	Savannah St.
49	Smith, Dennis	S	6-3	200	14	USC
41	Strother, Deon	RB	5-11	213	1	USC
25	Swann, Charles	DB	6-1	188	1	Ind. St.
20	Thomas, Eric	CB	5-11	184	9	Tulane
87	Tillman, Cedric	WR	6-2	204	3	Alcorn St.
48	Washington, Lionel	CB	6-0	185	13	Nebraska
90	Williams, Dan	DE	6-4	290	2	Toledo
92	Wyman, Dave	LB	6-2	248	9	Stanford
65	Zimmerman, Gary	T	6-6	294	9	Oregon

1995 DRAFT PICKS

ROUND	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
4	Brown, Jamie	PT	6-8	300	Florida A&M
4	Brown, Ken	LB	6-1	235	Virginia Tech
5	Yeboah-Kodie, Phil	LB	6-2	220	Penn State
6	Fequiere, Fritz	OG	6-3	289	Iowa
6	Davis, Terrell	RB	6-0	200	Georgia
7	Russ, Steve	LB	6-5	237	Air Force
7	Chamberlain, Byron	WR	6-1	225	Wayne St.

1994 WRAP-UP

TEAM DATA

Total Offense:	342.9 yards per game
Total Defense:	369.2 yards per game
Scoring Offense:	21.7 points per game
Scoring Defense:	24.8 points per game

LEADERS

Passing:	John Elway, 307-494-3490-10, 16 TDs
Rushing	Leonard Russell, 190 att., 620 yds., 9 TDs
Receiving:	Anthony Miller, 60 rec., 1107 yds., 5 TDS
Kicking:	Jason Elam, 30-37 FGs, 29-29 XP, 119 points
Punting:	Tom Rouen, 76 punts, 42.9 avg.
Kickoff Returns:	Glyn Milburn, 37 ret., 21.4 avg.
Punt Returns:	Glyn Milburn, 41 ret., 9.2 avg.
Tackles:	Elijah Alexander, 172, 105 solo
Sacks:	Simon Fletcher, 7
Interceptions:	Rondell Jones, 2 for 9 yds

RESULTS

San Diego	34-37	at L.A. Rams	21-27
at N.Y. Jets (OT)	22-25	Seattle	17-10
L.A. Raiders	16-48	Atlanta	32-28
at Buffalo	20-27	Cincinnati	15-13
at Seattle	16- 9	at Kansas City (OT)	20-17
Kansas City	28-31	at L.A. Raiders	13-23
at San Diego	20-15	at San Francisco	19-42
Cleveland	26-14	New Orleans	28-30

PROJECTED STARTING LINEUP

OFFENSE

83	ANTHONY MILLER	WR
65	GARY ZIMMERMAN	LT
69	MARK SCHLERETH	LG
66	TOM NALEN	C
75	BRIAN HABIB	RG
68	RUSSELL FREEMAN	RT
84	SHANNON SHARPE	TE
81	MIKE PRITCHARD	WR
7	JOHN ELWAY	QB
38	ROD BERNSTINE	RB
29	AARON CRAVER	RB
1	JASON ELAM	K

DEFENSE

99	SHANE DRONETT	LE
93	JAMES JONES	LT
95	MICHAEL DEAN PERRY	RT
73	SIMON FLETCHER	RE
	BRITT HAGER	LLB
77	KARL MECKLENBURG	MLB
58	ELIJAH ALEXANDER	RLB
48	LIONEL WASHINGTON	LCB
39	RAY CROCKETT	RCB
27	STEVE ATWATER	SS
49	DENNIS SMITH	FS
16	TOM ROUEN	P

Personnel changes made after April 22 may not be reflected.

Information provided by Jim Saccomano, Director of Public Relations.

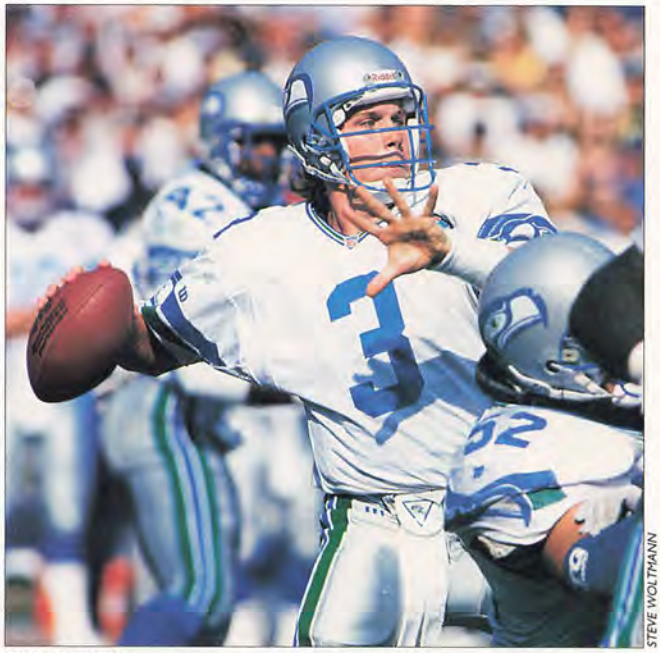
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

It's homecoming time in Seattle as Dennis Erickson returns to his home state to try and resuscitate the Seahawks.

Erickson, 48, was wooed away from the University of Miami by Seahawks ownership in January, shortly after Seattle finished in last place in the AFC West for the third consecutive season under Tom Flores.

The team Erickson inherits has struggled to a 14–34 record over the past three seasons. Fans have become sleepy in Seattle, watching their team blunder to one loss after another.

Last year's team became a national joke over the summer because ceiling tiles fell in the Kingdome, necessitating a move to Husky Stadium for three regular-season games. It became a national tragedy Dec. 1, when three Seahawks players were involved in a serious car wreck. Defensive tackle Mike Frier sustained a severe injury that ended his football career.



STEVE WOLTMANN

RICK MIRER

Flores, who had near-complete power in both coaching and personnel but couldn't do much with it, is gone. Erickson, who grew up 30 miles north of Seattle in Everett, Wash., will coach a nucleus of young stars. They include quarterback Rick Mirer, running back Chris Warren, wide receiver Brian Blades and defensive tackle Cortez Kennedy. All are exceptional players, the kind that can lead a team to the playoffs.

Erickson's problem will be depth. The talent difference between, say, Kennedy and the people who play on either side of him in the Seattle defensive scheme is far too great. Mirer basically gave up on throwing to anyone other than Blades in crucial situations last season.

With a 6–10 record in 1994, Seattle needs to win only a couple of more games to get into the wild-card chase. That certainly could happen if the Seahawks can stay healthier and find a few more solid players. Seattle ended last season with 16 players on injured reserve and needing help on both offense and defense. The Seahawks finished 24th in the National Football League in total offense and 23rd in total defense.

QUARTERBACKS

Mirer, who suffered a sophomore slump in 1994, will be healthy and primed for his third season in the NFL. He struggled through much of '94, ending up 12th in the AFC in passing efficiency. His completion percentage of 51.2 was below average for an NFL quarterback, as was his average gain per pass (5.65 yards). Mirer does not make many mistakes throwing into double coverage; his seven interceptions in 381 attempts tied Joe Montana for the best interception-avoidance percentage in the league.

But Mirer didn't make enough big plays. He threw just 11 touchdown passes in 13 games before missing the last three with a broken thumb on his left (non-throwing) hand. Still, other than Drew Bledsoe at New England, Mirer is considered the best young quarterback prospect in the game.

Dan McGwire, the No. 2 quarterback last year, is an unrestricted free agent and probably will sign elsewhere. The Seahawks were in the market for a second-stringer and signed free agent John Friesz from the Washington Redskins.

RUNNING BACKS

Warren rolled to his third consecutive 1,000-yard rushing season, gaining a career-high 1,545 yards, second in the NFL to Detroit's Barry Sanders (1,883). Warren's seven 100-yard rushing games were also second to Sanders. Warren scored at least one touchdown in seven consecutive games to tie a club record.

Because of Warren, Seattle finished second in the league behind Pittsburgh in rushing, averaging 130.3 yards. Expect Warren again to get the ball 20–25 times a game.

The downside to Warren's emergence is that the Seahawks have no one else to gain yards on the ground. Mirer was the team's second-leading rusher in 1994 with a modest 153 yards, less than one-tenth Warren's total. Seattle must hope Warren doesn't get hurt.

The Seahawks alternate their fullback position between Tracy Johnson and Steve

DIANE JOHNSON

CHRIS WARREN

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

Smith. Both are solid blockers who don't get the ball much. Each scored two touchdowns, compared to Warren's nine.

RECEIVERS

Blades set a team single-season record for receptions in '94, grabbing 81 for 1,086 yards. Hall of Famer Steve Largent and Blades are the only Seahawks ever to catch more than 1,000 yards worth of passes. Largent did it eight times, Blades has done it three.

Blades needs help to take the pressure off. He was plagued by a back injury last season but managed to play every game. The Seahawks lost Kelvin Martin, the team's starter at the other wide receiver spot, to Jacksonville in the expansion draft.

In an attempt to fill that void, Seattle acquired Ricky Proehl from Arizona in exchange for a 1995 draft pick. Help is most likely to come from rookie Joey Galloway, the Seahawks' No. 1 pick.

At tight end, Paul Green was respectable with 30 catches. The Seahawks waived Ferrell Edmunds.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Seahawks are a strong run-blocking unit, but the same cannot be said of pass blocking. Left guard Jeff Blackshear and center Ray Donaldson, signed as a free agent this year by Dallas, played every one of the team's 1,018 offensive snaps. Right tackle Howard Ballard missed only one snap.

Right guard Kevin Mawae, a rookie out of LSU in 1994, emerged as a solid starter after replacing Bill Hitchcock, who was hampered by a back injury.

The question mark at left tackle is a big one. Protecting Mirer's blind side will either be youngster James Atkins, veteran Hitchcock, or another rookie or free agent. This will be one of the most important decisions Erickson must make during training camp.

Center Jim Sweeney, a New York Jet free agent, was signed to replace Donaldson.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Seattle's chief defensive problem was the lack of a pass rush. Michael Sinclair, the team sack leader, had only 4½ sacks. Kennedy, who had 14 sacks in 1992 and 6½ in both 1991 and 1993, could manage only four. That was frustrating to Kennedy but the fault was partly his teammates'. No one, including Sinclair, beat single blocking often enough to matter, so teams double-teamed Kennedy on almost every down.

The Seahawks hope to get more help from second-year end Sam Adams, who likely will play alongside Kennedy in the middle. Seattle needs more sacks from both Sinclair and Antonio Edwards, an end who also may start. Veteran defensive tackle Joe Nash may return. This is a position of need for Seattle.

LINEBACKERS

The Seahawks took two heavy hits in the free-agency market. Middle linebacker Rod Stephens, who led the team with 128 tackles, grabbed a $4.8 million, three-year contract offered by the Washington Redskins. Rufus Porter another linebacking starter, left for New Orleans.

The only returning starter at linebacker is Terry Wooden (127 tackles).

Middle linebacker probably will be newcomer Winston Moss, a Los Angeles Raiders free agent. Porter's outside spot will be up for grabs. Duane Bickett might get it if he recovers from a back injury. The addition of Tyronne Stowe (Washington) should help.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

The secondary was decimated by injuries. The worst blow came before the season began when Nate Odomes, Seattle's high-priced Pro Bowl cornerback from Buffalo, tore up his knee playing a pickup game of basketball. Odomes rehabbed his knee and should be ready to give the secondary stability.

Seattle grabbed Corey Harris from Green Bay, even though he was a restricted free

Erickson Back Home Facing Challange

Seattle fans need only glance at new coach Dennis Erickson's record to start seeing stars.

Erickson went 63–9–0 over the past six seasons at the University of Miami, winning national championships in 1989 and 1991. His overall coaching record is 113–40–1. He has been Coach of the Year in the Big Sky, Pac-10 and Big East.

It sounds even better when you consider that Erickson was raised 30 miles north of Seattle. His father, Robert "Pink" Erickson, was a successful high school football coach at Cascade High in Everett.

This will be Erickson's biggest challenge. He is a newcomer to the NFL ranks but says he won't do much differently. Another former Miami coach turned successful NFL coach, Jimmy Johnson, told him there wasn't much need to.

Erickson, whose five-year contract will pay him close to $5 million, has already started instituting some changes, though. He derided the Seahawks' weight facility as inadequate and wants a better one. He says that the fact that only about 15 Seahawks live in the area in the off-season bothers him and that he is putting pressure on more of his players to stay close to their jobs year-round.

"If you're not going to stay here, that's telling me something," Erickson told his men. "It's telling me maybe football isn't the most important thing to you."

It certainly is the most important thing to Erickson, a former star quarterback at Montana State. He has brought in some coaches from Miami and retained several from Tom Flores' staff to help the continuity.

Erickson is coming home, certainly. But he knows that he must win to stay there.

CORTEZ KENNEDY

DAVID GRAHAM

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PRO-LINE Paint Brush hat

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1. **Cowboys** (Pictured- America's Team, Navy w/Saddle Sleeves)
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Redskins 7 Theismann	49ers 80 Rice
Redskins 44 Riggins	Steelers 12 Bradshaw
Redskins 81 Monk	Steelers 29 Foster
Cowboys 8 Aikman	Steelers 58 Lambert
Cowboys 22 Smith	Packers 4 Favre
Cowboys 84 Novacek	Packers 84 Sharpe
Cowboys 88 Irvin	Packers 92 White
Eagles 12 Cunningham	Chargers 55 Seau
Eagles 32 Waters	Chiefs 58 Thomas
Giants 11 Simms	Raiders 81 Brown
Giants 27 Hampton	Raiders 25 Biletnikoff
Bills 12 Kelly	Broncos 7 Elway
Bills 34 Thomas	Dolphins 13 Marino
Bills 78 B. Smith	Jets 7 Esiason
Lions 20 Sanders	Seahawks 3 Mirer
Patriots 11 Bledsoe	Vikings 1 Moon
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SB-IX- Pittsburgh Steelers
SB-X- Pittsburgh Steelers
SB-XI- Oakland Raiders
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SB-XIII- PittsburghSteelers
SB-XIV- PittsburghSteelers
SB-XV- Oaklarid Raiders
SB-XVI- San. Fran. 49ers
SB-XVII- Wash. Redskins
SB-XVIII- L.A. Raiders
SB-XIX- San. Fran. 49ers
SB-XX- Chicago Bears
SB-XXI- New York Giants
SB-XXII- Wash. Redskins
SB-XXIII- San. Fran. 49ers
SB-XXIV- San. Fran. 49ers
SB-XXV-New York Giants
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SB XXIX Super Tickets Poster

All the tickets pictured from SB I to SBXXIX $12 item#IGP

Superbowl Programs & Champ Pennants

	Programs (#SBPG)	Pennants (#SBCPN)
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SB XXVIII	$12	$6
SB XXVII	$30	$6
SB XXVI	$25	$7
SB XXV	$20	$8
SB XXIV	$25	$9
SB XXIII	$25	$10
SB XXII	$25	not avail
SB XXI	$25	$10
SB XX	$50	$10
SB XIX	$30	$10
SB XVIII	$30	$11
SB XVII	$30	$13
SB XVI	$35	$16
SB XV	$35	not avail

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						$
						$

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agent, by signing him to a three-year, $1.975 million deal that the Packers failed to match. The previous incumbent, Terry Taylor, then left for Atlanta.

Strong safety Eugene Robinson is back for his 11th campaign. At free safety likely will be Robert Blackmon, although Tony Covington, formerly of Tampa Bay, is now on board.

KICKING GAME

Seattle lost John Kasay, one of the NFL's best young kickers, to Carolina via free agency. The Seahawks will search for a consistent kicker in training camp. Todd Peterson was signed shortly after Kasay departed.

SEAHAWKS ALL-TIME TEAM

Offense

WR	Steve Largent (1976-89)
TE	Mike Tice (1981-88, 1990-91)
T	Mike Wilson (1986-89)
G	Edwin Bailey (1981-91)
C	Blair Bush (1983-88)
G	Bryan Millard (1984-91)
T	Andy Heck (1989-93)
WR	Brian Blades (1988-)
QB	Dave Krieg (1980-91)
RB	Curt Warner (1983-89)
RB	John L. Williams (1986-93)
K	Norm Johnson (1982-90)

Defense

DE	Jacob Green (1980-91)
DT	Cortez Kennedy (1990-)
DT	Joe Nash (1982-)
DE	Jeff Bryant (1982-93)
LB	Fredd Young (1984-87)
LB	Rufus Porter (1988-94)
LB	Keith Butler (1978-87)
CB	Dave Brown (1976-86)
S	Kenny Easley (1981-87)
S	Eugene Robinson (1985-)
CB	Keith Simpson (1978-85)
P	Rick Tuten (1991-)

Special Teams - Bobby Joe Edmonds (1986-88)

Rick Tuten remains as the punter. His net average of 36.7 was good for second in the league behind Denver's Tom Rouen.

With Martin gone, the Seahawks need a kick returner. Galloway is a big-play threat and should fill that role.

BUILDING A WINNER

Galloway or Proehl must become the alternative target to Blades that Mirer requires. The Seahawks had no one with more than three interceptions last season, and they need Odomes or someone else to step up with big pickoffs. A pass-rushing defensive end must come through to free up Kennedy more in the middle. The new linebackers must deliver. ■

ROSTER

HEAD COACH: Dennis Erickson (NFL Record: 0–0)
1994 RECORD: 6–10, 5th, AFC West

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	EXP.	COLLEGE
98	Adams, Sam	DT	6–3	285	1	Texas A&M
74	Atkins, James	T	6–6	303	1	SW La.
75	Ballard, Howard	T	6–6	332	7	Ala. A&M
81	Bates, Michael	WR	5–10	196	2	Arizona
20	Bellamy, Jay	S	5–11	193	1	Rutgers
50	Bickett, Duane	LB	6–5	245	10	USC
25	Blackmon, Robert	S	6–0	203	5	Baylor
69	Blackshear, Jeff	G	6–6	323	2	NE La.
89	Blades, Brian	WR	5–11	186	7	Miami (Fla.)
51	Brandon, David	LB	6–4	240	8	Memphis
29	Brown, Tony	CB	5–9	183	3	Fresno St.
22	Bryant, Beno	RB	5–9	170	1	Washington
	Covington, Tony	S	5–11	193	4	Virginia
48	Crumpler, Carlester	TE	6–6	255	1	E. Car.
23	Duckett, Forey	S	6–3	195	2	Nevada
67	Edwards, Antonio	DE	6–3	271	2	Valdosta St.
17	Friesz, John	QB	6–4	218	5	Idaho
18	Gelbaugh, Stan	QB	6–3	215	7	Maryland
26	Gray, Carlton	CB	6–0	196	2	UCLA
87	Green, Paul	TE	6–3	230	3	USC
64	Hamilton, Bobby	DE	6–4	269	1	So. Miss.
30	Harris, Corey	DB	5–11	195	3	Vanderbilt
11	Harris, Ronnie	WR	5–11	180	1	Oregon
76	Hitchcock, Bill	G	6–6	306	4	Purdue
47	Jackson, Kirby	CB	5–10	176	8	Miss. St.
43	Johnson, Tracy	FB	6–0	242	6	Clemson
83	Junkin, Trey	TE	6–2	241	12	La. Tech
78	Keim, Mike	T	6–7	302	3	BYU
96	Kennedy, Cortez	DT	6–3	293	5	Miami (Fla.)
34	Lambert, Dion	S	6–1	190	3	UCLA
52	Mawae, Kevin	G	6–4	288	1	LSU
44	McCloughan, Dave	S	6–1	186	4	Colorado
99	McCrary, Michael	DE	6–4	267	2	Wk. Forest
19	McKnight, James	WR	6–0	186	1	Liberty
3	Mirer, Rick	QB	6–2	211	2	Notre Dame
71	Moody, Mike	T	6–7	305	1	USC
55	Moss, Winston	LB	6–3	245	8	Miami (Fla.)
72	Nash, Joe	DT	6–3	278	13	Bost. Coll.
37	Odomes, Nate	CB	5–10	188	8	Wisconsin
2	Peterson, Todd	K	5–10	175	1	Georgia
82	Proehl, Ricky	WR	6–0	190	5	Wake Forest
73	Roberts, Ray	T	6–6	308	3	Virginia
41	Robinson, Eugene	S	6–0	195	10	Colgate
70	Sinclair, Michael	DE	6–4	271	4	E. New Mex.
36	Smith, Lamar	RB	5–11	224	1	Houston
35	Smith, Steve	FB	6–1	242	8	Penn St.
28	Speer, Del	S	6–0	200	2	Florida
58	Spitulski, Bob	LB	6–3	246	3	C. Florida
	Stowe, Tyronne	LB	6–2	250	8	Rutgers
38	Strong, Mack	FB	6–0	222	1	Georgia
53	Sweeney, Jim	C	6–4	284	11	Pittsburgh
86	Thomas, Robb	WR	5–11	175	6	Oregon St.
56	Tofflemire, Joe	C	6–2	277	6	Arizona
14	Tuten, Rick	P	6–2	218	6	Fla. State
42	Warren, Chris	RB	6–2	225	5	Ferrum
88	Warren, Terrence	WR	6–1	205	2	Hampton
31	Watters, Orlando	CB	5–11	173	1	Arkansas
93	Williams, Brent	DE	6–4	283	9	Toledo
95	Wells, Dean	LB	6–3	242	2	Kentucky
61	Werner, Matt	DE	6–3	262	1	UCLA
90	Wooden, Terry	LB	6–3	239	5	Syracuse

1995 DRAFT PICKS

ROUND	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	Galloway, Joey	WR	5–11	186	Ohio St.
2	Fauria, Christian	TE	6–4	235	Colorado
4	Kyle, Jason	LB	6–3	232	Ariz. St.
6	McMillian, Henry	DT	6–3	276	Florida
6	Goines, Eddie	WR	6–1	186	N.C. State
7	Bryant, Keif	DE	6–4	270	Rutgers

1994 WRAP-UP

TEAM DATA

Total Offense:	290.8 yards per game
Total Defense:	334.3 yards per game
Scoring Offense:	17.9 points per game
Scoring Defense:	20.2 points per game

LEADERS

Passing:	Rick Mirer, 195–381–2151–7, 11 TDs
Rushing:	Chris Warren, 333 att., 1545 yds., 9 TDs
Receiving:	Brian Blades, 81 rec., 1086 yds., 4 TDS
Kicking:	John Kasay, 25–26 XP, 20–24FG, 85 points
Punting:	Rick Tuten, 91 punts, 42.9 avg.
Kickoff Returns:	Michael Bates, 26 ret., 19.5 avg.
Punt Returns:	Kevin Martin, 33 ret., 8.5 avg.
Tackles:	Rod Stephens, 128, 95 solo
Sacks:	Michael Sinclair, 4.5
Interceptions:	Patrick Hunter, 3 for 85 yds.

RESULTS

at Washington	28–7	Cincinnati	17–20
at L.A. Raiders	38–9	at Denver	10–17
San Diego	10–24	Tampa Bay	22–21
Pittsburgh	30–13	Kansas City	10–9
at Indianapolis	15–17	Indianapolis	19–31
Denver	9–16	at Houston	16–14
at Kansas City	23–38	L.A. Raiders	16–17
at San Diego	15–35	at Cleveland	9–35

PROJECTED STARTING LINEUP

OFFENSE

82	RICKY PROEHL	WR
	JOEY GALLOWAY	WR
73	RAY ROBERTS	LT
69	JEFF BLACKSHEAR	LG
53	JIM SWEENEY	C
52	KEVIN MAWAE	RG
75	HOWARD BALLARD	RT
87	PAUL GREEN	TE
89	BRIAN BLADES	WR
3	RICK MIRER	QB
42	CHRIS WARREN	RB
2	TODD PETERSON	K

DEFENSE

70	MICHAEL SINCLAIR	LE
98	SAM ADAMS	LT
96	CORTEZ KENNEDY	RT
67	ANTONIO EDWARDS	RE
90	TERRY WOODEN	LLB
55	WINSTON MOSS	MLB
50	DUANE BICKETT	RLB
29	TONY BROWN	LCB
30	COREY HARRIS	RCB
41	EUGENE ROBINSON	SS
25	ROBERT BLACKMON	FS
14	RICK TUTEN	P

Personnel changes made after April 22 may not be reflected.

Information provided by Gary Wright, Director of Public Relations.

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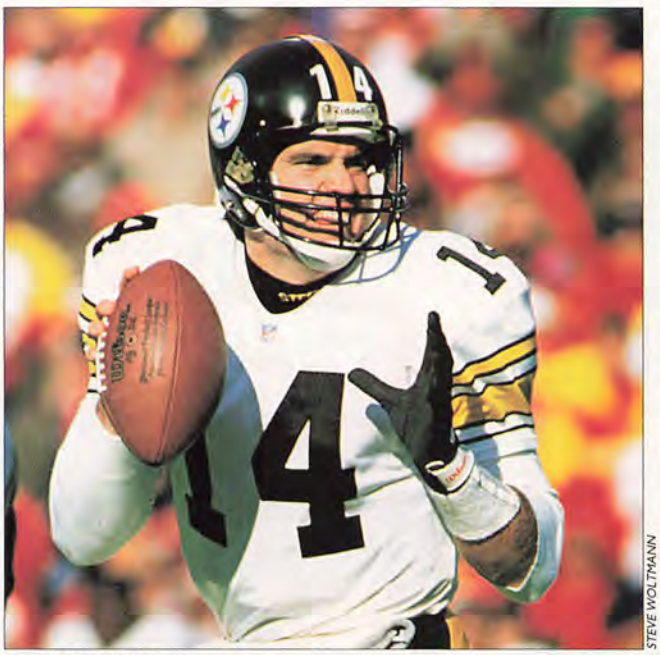
PITTSBURGH STEELERS

It was Terrible Towel time again last year for the Pittsburgh Steelers, a memorable season that ended with many of the players and their faithful fans crying into those towels when the end came in the AFC championship game against the San Diego Chargers.

It was not supposed to happen that way for a powerful Pittsburgh team many thought was the conference's best bet to end the NFC's domination of the National Football League. The Steelers posted seven victories in their last eight games, their best finish since 1978, on the way to a 12–4 regular-season record and the AFC Central Division crown.

In the end, the Steelers finished just 3 yards short of the Super Bowl. Their season



STEVE WOLTMANN

NEIL O'DONNELL

came to a close when quarterback Neil O'Donnell's pass intended for running back Barry Foster in the end zone from the San Diego 3-yard line was batted to the ground by Charger linebacker Dennis Gibson with 1:04 remaining.

Earlier, the Steelers' proud defense had allowed the Chargers to come back from a 13–3 deficit and take the lead on a 43-yard touchdown pass to Tony Martin, who beat cornerback Tim McKyer on the play. As a distraught and emotionally devastated McKyer was being helped off the field, the pained expression on his face mirrored the grief of an entire city.

Now that grief has turned once more to unbridled optimism. Fourth-year coach Bill Cowher, only the sixth man in NFL history to guide a team to the playoffs in his first three seasons, believes the Steelers can come back and finally achieve that elusive goal of "one for the thumb," a fifth Super Bowl triumph.

If they do, they'll have to do it without McKyer, who left in the expansion draft, and tight end Eric Green, a free agent who signed a $12 million contract with the Miami Dolphins. The Steelers also lost defensive coordinator Dom Capers, now the head coach of the Carolina Panthers.

Still, the nucleus and most of the supporting cast of a team that finished with the NFL's No. 1 rushing attack and No. 2 in total defense return virtually intact.

"Our football team is maturing," Cowher says. "There's a good mixture of experience and youth. What we have to do again is find a new chemistry and set our goals higher."

QUARTERBACKS

O'Donnell is a perfect symbol of the maturity to which Cowher refers. In his fourth season as a full-time starter, O'Donnell, overcame midseason injuries and showed himself to be a big-game quarterback down the stretch.

He had the fewest interceptions in the NFL (nine), and in his last three playoff games, O'Donnell has thrown for 821 yards, six touchdowns and no interceptions. Last year, he was the seventh-rated quarterback in the AFC, hitting 212 of 370 passes for 2,443 yards and 13 touchdowns.

O'Donnell had one midseason lapse, when the Steelers went 13 quarters and two overtime periods without an offensive touchdown. But O'Donnell also was playing hurt over that stretch, and after Cowher sat him down to heal, he came back strong.

O'Donnell's backup, veteran signal-caller Mike Tomczak, also distinguished himself, winning both of his starts in relief.

RUNNING BACKS

This is a team strength, with the big-back punch of the veteran Foster and 1994 Steeler Rookie of the Year Bam Morris wreaking havoc on opposing defenses.

Foster came back from off-season ankle surgery to lead the Steelers in rushing with 851 yards in 216 carries. Morris had 836 yards on 198 carries, and the two combined for 12 rushing touchdowns.

Fullback John L. Williams also was a load and was particularly effective as a blocker and receiver. He led the team in receptions with 51.

RECEIVERS

Since the glory days of Lynn Swann and John Stallworth, the Steelers have struggled

MICHAEL YELMAN

KEVIN GREENE

91

at the wide receiver position — until now.

The emergence of Charles Johnson, last year's first-round draft choice, and Andre Hastings, a '93 third-rounder, markedly upgraded a receiving corps that already featured a fine wideout in Yancey Thigpen.

Johnson had 38 catches, Thigpen 36, and both averaged a respectable 15 yards. The two also combined for seven touchdown catches. Hastings had 20 receptions and should see more action this season.

Replacing Green will not be easy. He caught 46 passes last year and also was a big, 280-pound factor in the Steeler running game. Jonathan Hayes started six games and is the likely replacement at tight end.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

This unit was shaken in the off-season when Pro Bowl guard Duval Love signed with the Arizona Cardinals as an unrestricted free agent.

Fortunately, the Steelers do have the team's other Pro Bowler, center Dermontti Dawson, back. The play of Love and Dawson was a major reason for the Steelers' success on the ground. Their pass blocking could use some work, however. Last year, Steeler quarterbacks were sacked 39 times.

Dawson, left tackle John Jackson and right tackle Leon Searcy started all 16 games. Justin Strzelczyk had to move from backup tackle to starting guard when Todd Kalis was lost with a broken foot. Kalis should be back to regain his old spot, and Strzelcyk may take over for Love.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Rookie Brentson Buckner, a second-round pick in 1994, and Ray Seals shored up the line at the ends, with Joel Steed starting all 16 games at nose tackle.

Seals, one of just two NFL players who never attended college, had seven of the Steelers' league-best 55 sacks. Buckner emerged as a starter over the second half of the season and also shows some pass-rushing potential. Steed was particularly effective against the run.

LINEBACKERS

This group made things happen all year — mostly bad things for opposing offenses.

Outside linebackers Kevin Greene and Greg Lloyd made things particularly uncomfortable for quarterbacks. Greene led the NFL in sacks with 14, while Lloyd had a career-high 10 sacks and was the third-leading tackler on a team that used the blitz at will.

Second-year man Chad Brown was a force as he led the team in tackles (119) and also contributed 8½ sacks. Fellow inside linebacker Levon Kirkland had 100 tackles, three sacks and two interceptions.

GREG LLOYD

SCOTT LA CLAIR

Cowher's Intensity Rubs Off on Steelers

Quick, Danny Sheridan, how about the odds on the Pittsburgh Steelers playing in Super Bowl XXX?

One thing's sure: Those odds are getting shorter. That started the day Bill Cowher was introduced as the Steelers' head coach.

In his three seasons, the 37-year-old Cowher has led Pittsburgh to the NFL playoffs three times, posting records of 11–5, 9–7 and 12–4.

Last Jan. 15 at Three Rivers Stadium, the Steelers came within a deflected fourth-and-goal pass from the 3-yard line of meeting San Francisco in Super Bowl XXIX. Instead, San Diego, taking over with 68 seconds left, headed for Miami.

After the 17–13 loss to the Chargers, linebacker Kevin Greene, who was lying facedown on the locker room floor, cursed a photographer for making his picture, Jon Saraceno of *USA TODAY* reported, and later informed an interviewer, "The next guy who asks me a stupid question, I'm just gonna flat-out cold-cock you. You can sue me."

Cowher is easily stirred, vehement at times, and some of that has rubbed off.

The Steelers haven't appeared in the Super Bowl since they won XIV on Jan. 20, 1980, their fourth under Chuck Noll in six years.

Running backs coach Dick Hoak, a Steelers' staffer for 23 years, is the only current Pittsburgh coach with four Super Bowl rings. Their return for "one for the thumb" may not be far away under the dynamic Cowher, who coaches with his face inches away from his players, looking them straight in the eye, often raising his voice, getting the most out of them — and winning.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Rod Woodson, after a slow start, came around for another All-Pro season at cornerback in a year when he also was voted to the NFL's all-time team. Woodson was fourth in tackles, including three sacks, had four interceptions and a team-high 23 passes defensed.

Cornerback Deon Figures was hardly that spectacular but was steady all year and started 15 games.

The safeties were also outstanding. Strong safety Carnell Lake was voted to the Pro Bowl, and free safety Darren Perry led the Steelers with seven interceptions. McKyer was used primarily as a nickel back. He will be replaced, most likely, by third-year man Willie Williams. Cornerback Chris Oldham, a free-agent signee, provides depth.

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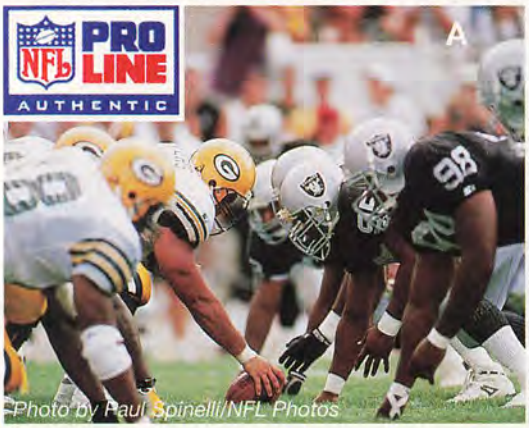

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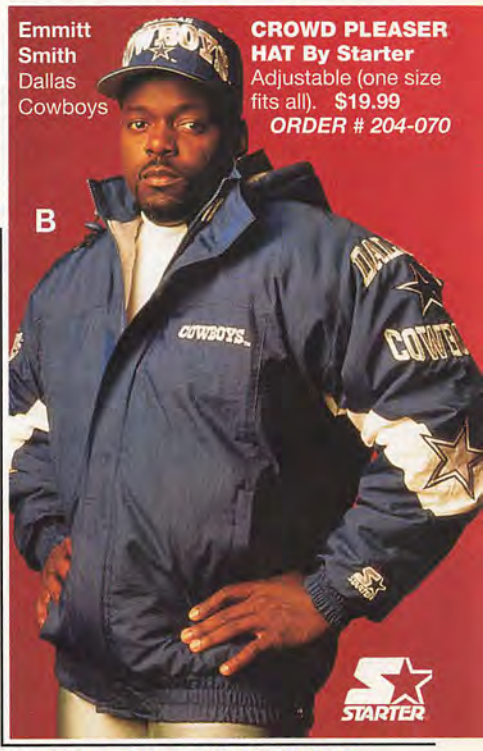

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KICKING GAME

Replacing placekicker Gary Anderson, who became a free agent after the 1994 season, was among Pittsburgh's main off-season priorities. Anderson was the Steelers' leading scorer and was second in the league in field-goal efficiency at 83 percent (24 of 29). There was some concern about his kickoff distance and field-goal range, and some lingering bitterness about a lengthy holdout that saw him miss the entire 1994 preseason.

Punter Mark Royals had an outstanding year, with a 39.7-yard average. He led the NFL with 35 kicks inside the opposition's 20. The veteran Rohn Stark replaces Royals.

Woodson is still among the game's most dangerous return men, averaging 8.2 yards on punt returns and 24.3 yards on kickoffs. Charles Johnson again will be used on returns as well. The Steelers also fielded outstanding punt- and kickoff-coverage teams.

BUILDING A WINNER

Pittsburgh, which beat division rival Cleveland three times last year, is in need of some fine-tuning. Replacing Green and Anderson will not be easy.

As long as the Steelers can stay healthy and run the football the way they did in 1994, there is every reason to believe they have another legitimate shot at making it to the Super Bowl. ■

STEELERS ALL-TIME TEAM

Offense

WR	John Stallworth (1974-87)
TE	Elbie Nickel (1947-57)
T	Ernie Stautner (1950-63)
G	Sam Davis (1967-79)
C	Mike Webster (1974-88)
G	George Hughes (1950-54)
T	Frank Varrichione (1955-1960)
WR	Lynn Swann (1974-82)
QB	Terry Bradshaw (1970-83)
RB	Franco Harris (1972-83)
RB	Bill Dudley (1942, 1945-46)
K	Gary Anderson (1982-)

Defense

DE	L.C. Greenwood (1969-81)
DT	Joe Greene (1969-81)
DT	Dale Dodrill (1951-59)
DE	Keith Willis (1982-87, 1989-91)
LB	Jack Ham (1971-82)
LB	Jack Lambert (1974-84)
LB	Andy Russell (1963, 1966-76)
CB	Mel Blount (1970-83)
S	Donnie Shell (1974-87)
S	Jack Butler (1951-59)
CB	Rod Woodson (1987-)
P	Pat Brady (1952-54)

Special Teams - Rod Woodson (1987-)

ROSTER

HEAD COACH: Bill Cowher (NFL Record: 33-19)
1994 RECORD: 12-4, 1st AFC Central

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	EXP.	COLLEGE
1	Anderson, Gary	PK	5-11	179	13	Syracuse
43	Avery, Steve	FB	6-2	233	1	No. Mich.
40	Bell, Myron	S	5-11	203	1	Mich. St.
94	Brown, Chad	LB	6-2	236	2	Colorado
96	Buckner, Brentson	DE	6-2	305	1	Clemson
23	Daigle, Anthony	RB	5-10	203	1	Fresno St.
63	Dawson, Dermontti	C	6-2	286	7	Kentucky
	Esters, Jeff	NT	6-2	300	1	Pittsburgh
78	Faumui, Taase	DL	6-3	278	1	Hawaii
21	Figures, Deon	CB	6-0	203	2	Colorado
29	Foster, Barry	RB	5-10	218	5	Arkansas
60	Gammon, Kendall	C	6-4	288	3	Pitt. St.
92	Gildon, Jason	LB	6-3	237	1	Okla. St.
91	Greene, Kevin	LB	6-3	247	10	Auburn
88	Hastings, Andre	WR	6-0	190	2	Georgia
85	Hayes, Jonathan	TE	6-5	248	10	Iowa
76	Henry, Kevin	DE	6-4	270	2	Miss. St.
17	Holliday, Corey	WR	6-2	208	1	N.C.
65	Jackson, John	OT	6-6	297	7	E. Kentucky
81	Johnson, Charles	WR	6-0	189	1	Colorado
62	Kalis, Todd	G	6-6	296	7	Ariz. St.
87	Keith, Craig	TE	6-3	264	2	Lenoir-Rhy.
99	Kirkland, Levon	LB	6-1	252	3	Clemson
37	Lake, Carnell	SS	6-1	210	6	UCLA
95	Lloyd, Greg	LB	6-2	226	8	Ft. Val. St.
56	Mack, Rico	LB	6-4	242	2	A'plachian
35	McAfee, Fred	RB	5-10	193	4	Mississippi
16	Miller, Jim	QB	6-2	226	1	Mich. St.
89	Mills, Ernie	WR	5-11	192	4	Florida
33	Morris, Byron	RB	6-0	235	R	Texas Tech
	Newberry, Tom	G	6-2	285	10	Wis-Lac'se
14	O'Donnell, Neil	QB	6-3	230	5	Maryland
	Oldham, Chris	CB	5-10	183	5	Oregon
55	Olsavsky, Jerry	LB	6-1	221	6	Pittsburgh
66	Palelei, Siulagi	G	6-3	320	2	UNLV
	Parrish, James	OL	6-6	320	1	Temple
39	Perry, Darren	FS	5-11	196	3	Penn St.
84	Rasby, Walter	TE	6-3	247	1	Wk. Forest
57	Ravotti, Eric	LB	6-3	254	1	Penn St.
51	Robinson, Ed	LB	6-0	228	1	Florida
97	Seals, Ray	DE	6-3	309	7	None
72	Searcy, Leon	OT	6-3	304	3	Miami (Fla.)
61	Simpson, Tim	G-C	6-2	284	1	Illinois
69	Solomon, Ariel	C-G	6-5	290	4	Colorado
	Stark, Rohn	P	6-3	203	13	Fla. St.
93	Steed, Joel	NT	6-2	295	3	Colorado
73	Strzelczyk, Justin	OL	6-6	295	5	Maine
82	Thigpen, Yancey	WR	6-1	208	3	Win.-Sal. St.
	Thompson, Craig	TE	6-2	250	3	N.C. A&T
18	Tomczak, Mike	QB	6-1	207	10	Ohio State
	Toner, Ed	RB	6-0	240	3	Bost. Coll.
22	Williams, John L.	FB	5-11	231	9	Florida
27	Williams, Willie	CB	5-9	185	2	W. Car.
26	Woodson, Rod	CB-KR	6-0	200	8	Purdue
90	Zgonina, Jeff	DT	6-1	287	2	Purdue

1995 DRAFT PICKS

ROUND	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	Bruener, Mark	TE	6-5	240	Washington
2	Stewart, Kordell	QB	6-3	210	Colorado
3	Stai, Brenden	G	6-4	300	Nebraska
4	Gibson, Oliver	DE	6-3	275	Notre Dame
4	Jones, Donta	LB	6-2	220	Nebraska
5	Flowers, Lethon	DB	6-0	202	Georgia Tech
5	Brown, Lance	DB	6-1	203	Indiana
6	Miles, Barron	DB	5-8	160	Nebraska
7	Bailey, Henry	WR/KR	5-10	180	UNLV
7	Ford, Cole	K	6-2	195	USC

1994 WRAP-UP

TEAM DATA

Total Offense:	321.5 yards per game
Total Defense:	270.4 yards per game
Scoring Offense:	19.8 points per game
Scoring Defense:	14.6 points per game

LEADERS

Passing:	Neil O'Donnell, 212-370-2443-9, 13 TDs
Rushing:	Barry Foster, 216 att., 851 yds., 5 TDs
Receiving:	Eric Green, 46 rec., 618 yds., 4 TDs
Kicking:	Gary Anderson, 24-29 FGs, 32-32 XP, 104 points
Punting:	Mark Royals, 97 punts, 39.7 avg.
Kickoff Returns:	Charles Johnson, 16 ret., 21.6 avg.
Punt Returns:	Rod Woodson, 39 ret., 8.2 avg.
Tackles:	Chad Brown, 119, 90 solo
Sacks:	Kevin Greene, 14
Interceptions:	Darren Perry, 7 for 112 yds.

RESULTS

Dallas	9-26	Miami (OT)	16-13
at Cleveland	17-10	at L.A. Raiders	21- 3
Indianapolis	31-21	at Cincinnati	38-15
at Seattle	13-30	Philadelphia	14- 3
Houston	30-14	Cleveland	17- 7
Cincinnati	14-10	at San Diego	34-37
at N.Y. Giants	10- 6		
at Arizona (OT)	17-20	**Playoffs**	
at Houston (OT)	12- 9	Buffalo	23-10
Cleveland	29- 9	San Diego	13-17

PROJECTED STARTING LINEUP

OFFENSE

82	YANCEY THIGPEN	WR
65	JOHN JACKSON	LT
	TOM NEWBERRY	LG
63	DERMONTTI DAWSON	C
73	JUSTIN STRZELCZYK	RG
72	LEON SEARCY	RT
	MARK BRUENER	TE
89	ERNIE MILLS	WR
14	NEIL O'DONNELL	QB
22	JOHN L. WILLIAMS	FB
29	BARRY FOSTER	RB
1	GARY ANDERSON	K

DEFENSE

96	BRENTSON BUCKNER	LE
93	JOEL STEED	NT
97	RAY SEALS	RE
91	KEVIN GREENE	OLB
99	LEVON KIRKLAND	ILB
94	CHAD BROWN	ILB
95	GREG LLOYD	OLB
26	ROD WOODSON	CB
21	DEON FIGURES	CB
37	CARNELL LAKE	SS
39	DARREN PERRY	FS
	ROHN STARK	P

Personnel changes made after April 22 may not be reflected.

Information provided by Rob Boulware, Media Relations Coordinator.

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CLEVELAND

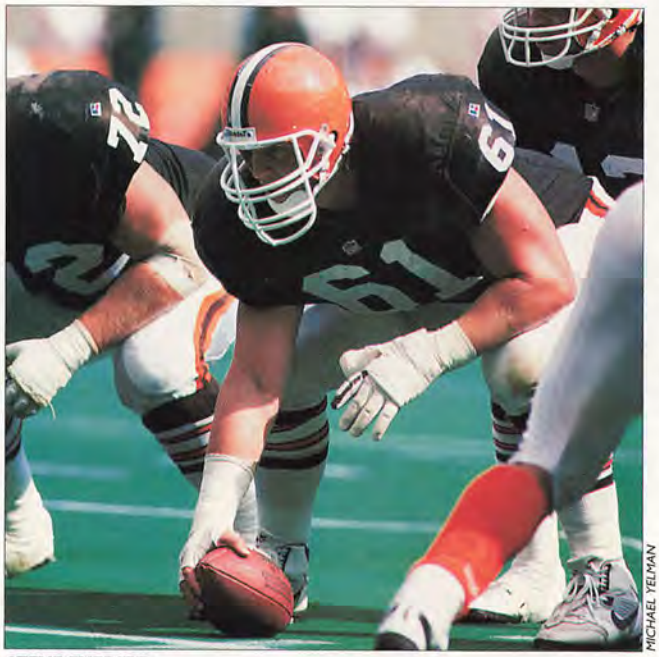
BROWNS

The Cleveland Browns had their most successful season in eight years in 1994, yet still spent the off-season mulling over their failure to clear one particular hurdle.

That would be the team two hours down the highway who consider the Browns so much roadkill. Three times Cleveland played the Pittsburgh Steelers and thrice they lost, the last a 29–9 drubbing on the road in the second round of the playoffs.

"Pittsburgh has our number right now and we vow to be a better team in 1995," said the Browns' long-suffering owner, Art Modell. "We'll make whatever changes are necessary."

Browns fans wondered how necessary it was to unload two-time Pro Bowler Eric Metcalf to the Atlanta Falcons *plus* their No. 1 draft pick, just to climb up to the 10th spot overall in the 1995 draft, a move also designed to bring cap relief from the suffocating Andre Rison deal (five years, $17 million) made earlier. In the first week of the free-agency signing period, the Browns also lost one of their cornerstones, defensive tackle Michael Dean Perry, to the Denver Broncos.



MICHAEL YELMAN

STEVE EVERITT

That Perry-anchored defense allowed only 204 points, a club record and the best figure in the NFL. Cleveland held opponents under 10 points a league-high six times and yielded a club-record-low 22 touchdowns. All that was accomplished with six new starters on defense.

Offensively, the Browns were forced to jettison their idea of making Metcalf their featured back because of early season-ending injuries to fullback Tommy Vardell and tight end Walter Reeves, both outstanding blockers. Instead, they shifted to a power attack featuring Leroy Hoard, who finished as the Browns' leading rusher.

Cleveland once again turned its offense over to quarterback Vinny Testaverde, who had a reasonably decent year, despite missing two games with a concussion.

Coach Bill Belichick has said Testaverde will remain the quarterback of the future, and, with Vardell and Reeves back in the lineup, the Browns believe they just may be able to get over that Pittsburgh hump.

QUARTERBACKS

Testaverde will not make anyone forget Otto Graham in Cleveland, but in his first full season as the team's starter, he showed more than occasional flashes of brilliance.

There were several dog days as well, including a four-interception game in the first meeting with the Steelers. In the three losses to Pittsburgh, Testaverde tossed up eight INTs.

Overall he had 16 touchdown passes, 18 interceptions and finished the year as the AFC's 11th-leading passer. He was 9–4 as a starter in the regular season and had his best game of the year in a wild-card playoff victory over the New England Patriots.

Behind Testaverde, only Brad Goebel remains, though a seasoned backup may be signed.

RUNNING BACKS

The Cleveland ground game was led by running back Hoard, who gained 890 yards — the best yardage total by a Cleveland back since 1985 — and recorded a team-high nine touchdowns.

So valuable was his contribution, the Browns signed him to a new four-year contract and once again are planning to make him the featured back. Hoard, an excellent receiver, also caught 45 passes out of the backfield.

Vardell's return should provide some relief. When he was lost for the season because of a knee injury, Vardell had been leading the team in receiving.

But the Browns lose a major dimension of their offense with the departure of Metcalf.

RECEIVERS

At the start of last season, Cleveland thought two former Pro Bowlers, Mark Carrier and Michael Jackson, would uplift the passing game. Instead, both were plagued by hamstring injuries for much of

MICHAEL YELMAN

ERIC TURNER

29

CLEVELAND BROWNS

the year. Carrier caught only 29 passes and was plucked in the expansion draft by Carolina. Jackson nabbed only 21 balls. The Browns' best receiver turned out to be rookie Derrick Alexander, who led the team with 48 catches for 828 yards, a 17.2 average. He also dropped two passes on Cleveland's first drive against the Steelers in the playoffs, miscues that helped set the tone for the Browns the rest of the day.

The expensive acquisition of former Atlanta Falcons star Andre Rison, a four-time Pro Bowl performer, should solidify the receiving ranks. Rison, though, has logged little time on the grass-sand-mud mix of Cleveland's venerable Municipal Stadium, a far cry from the fast artificial-turf lanes he is used to.

The return of Reeves, signed as a free agent before the '94 season, also should help. Brian Kinchen had a respectable year in his place, recording 24 receptions.

OFFENSIVE LINE

This unit was a major factor in the Browns' resurgence. The line allowed a league-low 14 quarterback sacks, a team record.

Veteran left tackle Tony Jones was the group leader. He has now started 83 straight games and the Browns consider him the most underrated offensive lineman in the league. Left guard Doug Dawson and right tackle Orlando Brown switched positions at midseason, and the team averaged 116 yards rushing over that span. Center Steve Everitt, plagued by a pinched nerve in his neck all year, still started 15 games. Bob Dahl is now a fixture at right guard.

DEFENSIVE LINE

The biggest problem will be replacing All-Pro defensive tackle Perry, who made his fifth trip to the Pro Bowl. Former New England Patriot Tim Goad will attempt to fill that substantial space. Left defensive end Rob Burnett led the team with 10 sacks, a career high, and his 28 sacks over the last three years also leads the team. His right end counterpart, Anthony Pleasant, had 4½ sacks among 81 tackles. Defensive tackle Bill Johnson was a key man in the Browns' stingy run defense, which yielded only nine rushing touchdowns and allowed only two running backs, Emmitt Smith and Barry Foster, to gain over 100 yards. Free-agent tackle James Jones gratefully accepted a three-year, $4.8 million offer from Denver.

LINEBACKERS

Two former Giants played a major role for the Browns last year. Middle linebacker Pepper Johnson led the team with 207 total tackles and added 30 more in two playoff games. Carl Banks, who also played for then-defensive coordinator Belichick in New York, finished with 106 tackles and remains one of the league's better cover linebackers. Outside linebacker Frank Stams added 95 tackles, but Cleveland lost him to Carolina via free agency.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

The most valuable player for the Browns defense last year had to be free safety Eric Turner. He made his first Pro Bowl after a season that included tying for the league lead in interceptions, with nine, and 25 passes defensed. He also finished as the Browns' second-leading tackler, with 167.

The Cleveland secondary improved with the addition of cornerbacks Don Griffin and rookie Antonio Langham, who led the team with 29 passes defensed. Strong safety Stevon Moore was the third-leading tackler, with 131, and had two recovered fumbles.

The unit tied a team record by allowing

LEROY HOARD

MICHAEL YELMAN

Browns-Steelers: A 'Fine' Rivalry

It's often said that a football game between the Cleveland Browns and Pittsburgh Steelers brings out the worst on both sides of the field.

Cleveland owner Art Modell has had plenty of time to reflect on the Browns' three losses in '94 to Pittsburgh, including a 29–9 pasting in the playoffs. How intense is this longtime NFL rivalry?

Modell was reminiscing recently about a particularly galling loss to the Steelers back in the 1970s at Three Rivers Stadium. His Browns were then in the midst of a 16-year (1970-85) winless string in games at Pittsburgh. Modell tried everything to break the streak: switching hotels, changing pre-game meals, taking buses, planes, trains and automobiles to get his team to town. "I even thought about renting 40 Cessnas and putting two guys on each plane," he says.

One year toward the end of the losing streak, the Browns were ahead in the fourth quarter, when Cleveland defensive back Ron Bolton and Steeler receiver Lynn Swann went at each other.

"Swann had Bolton by the face mask and Bolton spit in his face," Modell recalled. "Naturally, that's all the official saw. So now Bolton gets ejected from the game, we get a 15-yard unsportsmanlike penalty, they go down and score, and we lose again. Well, I had a few pops in me and when the game ended, I told them to take me to the officials' dressing room.

"I go down there and pound on the door. (Referee) Ben Dreith yells through it, 'Art, that'll cost you $10,000.' That sobered me up real fast. Then I said, 'Would you come out for $5,000?' He did. Yeah, it cost me $5,000, but I had the opportunity to tell him it was the worst officiating I'd ever seen. Given the options, it was worth it."

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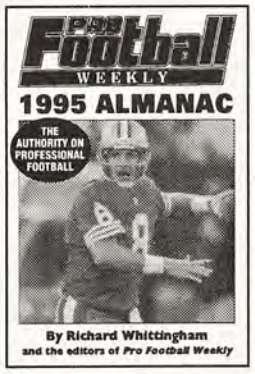
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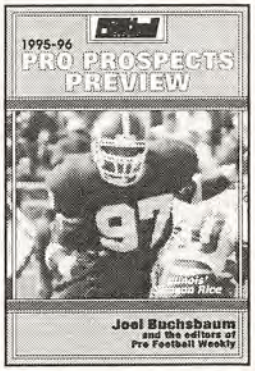

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only 13 scoring passes all year, and only one receiver, the Giants' Mike Sherrard, gained more than 100 yards against it.

KICKING GAME

Cleveland scored three touchdowns on kick returns and another on a blocked punt. Two of the TDs were punt returns by Metcalf. The Browns also lost AFC-leading kick returner Randy Baldwin to Carolina in the expansion draft, so they start at ground zero with return men available.

Kicker Matt Stover finished the regular season with a streak of 20 straight field goals. He missed only two of his 28 kicks all year, and his 92 percent success rate eclipsed a club record held by Lou Groza (88.5 percent in 1953). Punter Tom Tupa averaged 40.1 yards a kick and had 27 punts inside the opponents' 20, fourth best in the AFC.

BROWNS ALL-TIME TEAM

Offense

WR	Dante Lavelli (1946-56)
TE	Ozzie Newsome (1978-90)
T	Mike McCormack (1954-62)
G	Gene Hickerson (1958-60, 1962-73)
C	Frank Gatski (1946-56)
G	Jim Ray Smith (1956-62)
T	Dick Schafrath (1959-71)
WR	Paul Warfield (1964-69, 1976-77)
QB	Otto Graham (1946-1955)
RB	Jim Brown (1957-65)
RB	Marion Motley (1946-53)
K	Lou Groza (1946-59, 1961-67)

Defense

DE	Len Ford (1950-57)
DT	Michael Dean Perry (1988-94)
MG	Bill Willis (1946-53)
DT	Bob Gain (1952, 1954-64)
DE	Paul Wiggin (1957-67)
LB	Clay Matthews (1978-93)
LB	Chip Banks (1982-86)
CB	Frank Minnifield (1984-93)
S	Thom Darden (1972-74, 1976-81)
S	Warren Lahr (1948-59)
CB	Clarence Scott (1971-83)
P	Horace Gillom (1947-56)

Special Teams - Bobby Mitchell (1958-61)

BUILDING A WINNER

The Browns made great progress a year ago but must psychologically elevate themselves above their Pittsburgh-equals-loss mind-set.

Cleveland shopped for, and got, a big playmaker at wide receiver in the off-season, but the loss of Metcalf, Perry, Baldwin and Stams will be felt by a team that should make the playoffs but is not yet ready for NFL-prime-time exposure in the Super Bowl. ■

ROSTER

HEAD COACH: Bill Belichick (NFL Record: 32-34-0)
1994 RECORD: 11-5, 2nd AFC Central

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	EXP.	COLLEGE
85	Alexander, Derrick	WR	6-2	195	1	Michigan
70	Arvie, Herman	T	6-4	305	2	Grambling
97	Bandison, Romeo	DT	6-5	290	1	Oregon
58	Banks, Carl	LB	6-4	235	11	Mich. St.
64	Bedosky, Mike	G	6-4	290	1	Missouri
36	Booth, Issac	DB	6-3	190	1	California
77	Brown, Orlando	OL	6-7	325	2	S.C. St.
90	Burnett, Rob	DE	6-4	280	5	Syracuse
20	Byner, Earnest	RB	5-10	215	11	E. Car.
56	Caldwell, Mike	LB	6-2	235	2	Mid-TN St.
72	Dahl, Bob	G	6-5	310	3	Notre Dame
60	Devries, Jed	OL	6-5	282	1	Utah State
51	Dixon, Gerald	LB	6-3	250	3	So. Car.
61	Everitt, Steve	C	6-5	290	2	Michigan
25	Ferrell, Kerry	WR	5-11	173	1	Syracuse
78	Footman, Dan	DE	6-5	290	2	Fla. State
	Goad, Tim	DT	6-3	280	7	N.C.
8	Goebel, Brad	QB	6-3	214	4	Baylor
28	Griffin, Don	CB	6-0	176	9	Mid-TN St.
31	Hairston, Stacey	CB	5-9	185	2	Ohio No.
48	Hartley, Frank	TE	6-2	268	1	Illinois
39	Harvey, Frank	FB	6-0	245	1	Georgia
93	Hill, Travis	LB	6-2	240	2	Nebraska
33	Hoard, Leroy	RB	5-11	225	5	Michigan
81	Jackson, Michael	WR	6-4	195	4	So. Miss.
41	Jacobs, Tim	CB	5-10	185	2	Delaware
94	Johnson, Bill	DL	6-4	290	3	Mich. St.
52	Johnson, Pepper	LB	6-3	248	9	Ohio State
24	Jones, Reginald	DB	6-1	202	4	Memphis
66	Jones, Tony	T	6-5	295	7	W. Car.
88	Kinchen, Brian	TE	6-2	240	7	LSU
38	Langham, Antonio	CB	6-0	180	1	Alabama
95	Lyle, Rick	DL	6-5	275	1	Missouri
87	McCardell, Keenan	WR	6-1	175	3	UNLV
99	McKenzie, Rich	LB	6-2	240	1	Penn St.
80	McLemore, Thomas	TE	6-5	250	3	Southern
27	Moore, Stevon	S	5-11	210	6	Mississippi
98	Pleasant, Anthony	DE	6-5	280	5	Tenn. St.
89	Reeves, Walter	TE	6-4	270	6	Auburn
42	Riddick, Louis	S	6-2	215	3	Pittsburgh
	Rison, Andre	WR	6-1	188	6	Mich. St.
75	Sagapolutele, Pio	DL	6-6	297	4	S. Diego St.
79	Schad, Mike	G	6-5	290	9	Queen's (Can.)
84	Smith, Rico	WR	6-0	185	3	Colorado
3	Stover, Matt	K	5-11	178	5	Louisiana Tech
54	Sutter, Ed	LB	6-3	235	2	N'western
12	Testaverde, Vinny	QB	6-5	215	8	Miami (Fla.)
	Thomas, Johnny	CB	5-9	191	7	Baylor
37	Thompson, Bennie	S	6-0	214	5	Grambling
40	Tremble, Greg	S	5-11	188	1	Georgia
7	Tupa, Tom	P	6-4	230	6	Ohio State
29	Turner, Eric	S	6-1	207	4	UCLA
44	Vardell, Tommy	FB	6-2	230	3	Stanford
62	Williams, Gene	G-T	6-2	305	4	Iowa St.
63	Williams, Wally	C	6-2	300	2	Fla. A&M

1995 DRAFT PICKS

ROUND	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	Powell Craig	LB	6-4	230	Ohio St.
3	Zeier, Eric	QB	6-2	205	Georgia
3	Frederick, Mike	DE	6-6	265	Virginia
5	Pupua, Tau	DL	6-5	275	Weber St.
5	Mlller, Mike	WR	5-7	160	Notre Dame
7	Tellison, A.C.	WR	6-4	212	Miami

1994 WRAP-UP

TEAM DATA

Total Offense:	302.0 yards per game
Total Defense:	301.6 yards per game
Scoring Offense:	21.3 points per game
Scoring Defense:	12.8 points per game

LEADERS

Passing:	Vinny Testaverde, 207-377-2575-18, 16 TDs
Rushing:	Leroy Hoard, 209 att., 890 yds., 5 TDs
Receiving:	Derrick Alexander, 48 rec., 828 yds., 2 TDs
Kicking:	Matt Stover, 26-28 FGs, 32-32 XP
Punting:	Tom Tupa, 80 punts, 40.1 avg.
Kickoff Returns:	Randy Baldwin, 28 ret., 26.9 avg., 1 TD
Punt Returns:	Eric Metcalf, 35 ret., 9.9 avg., 2 TDs
Tackles:	Pepper Johnson, 207, 97 solo
Sacks:	Rob Burnett, 10
Interceptions:	Eric Turner, 9 for 199 yds., 1 TD

RESULTS

at Cincinnati	28-20	at Kansas City	13-20
Pittsburgh	10-17	Houston	34-10
Arizona	32- 0	N.Y. Giants	13-16
at Indianapolis	21-14	at Dallas	19-14
N.Y. Jets	27- 7	at Pittsburgh	7-17
at Houston	11- 8	Seattle	35- 9
Cincinnati	37-13		
at Denver	14-26	**Playoffs**	
New England	13- 6	New England	20-13
at Philadelphia	26- 7	at Pittsburgh	9-29

PROJECTED STARTING LINEUP

OFFENSE

	ANDRE RISON	WR
66	TONY JONES	LT
62	GENE WILLIAMS	LG
61	STEVE EVERITT	C
72	BOB DAHL	RG
77	ORLANDO BROWN	RT
88	BRIAN KINCHEN	TE
85	DERRICK ALEXANDER	WR
12	VINNY TESTAVERDE	QB
44	TOMMY VARDELL	FB
33	LEROY HOARD	RB
3	MATT STOVER	K

DEFENSE

90	ROB BURNETT	LDE
94	BILL JOHNSON	LDT
	TIM GOAD	RDT
98	ANTHONY PLEASANT	RDE
58	CARL BANKS	LOLB
52	PEPPER JOHNSON	MLB
56	MIKE CALDWELL	ROLB
38	ANTONIO LANGHAM	LC
28	DON GRIFFIN	RC
27	STEVON MOORE	SS
29	ERIC TURNER	FS
7	TOM TUPA	P

Personnel changes made after April 22 may not be reflected.

Information provided by Kevin Byrne, Public Relations Director.

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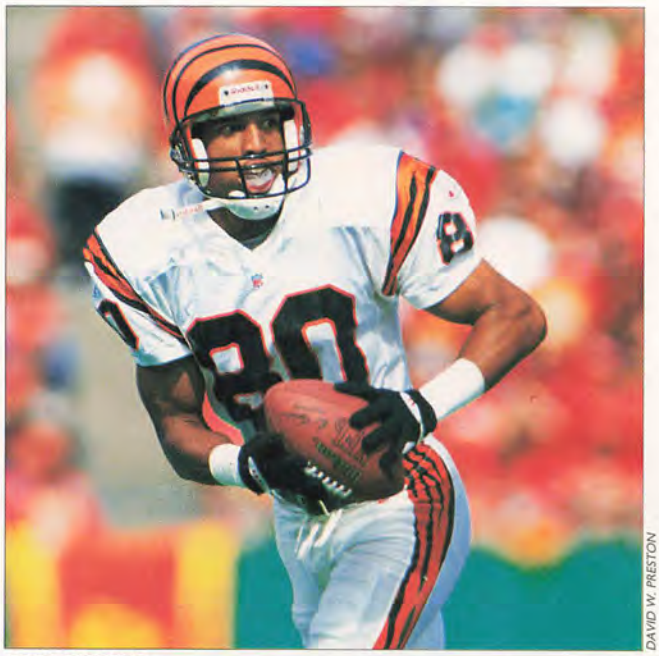
CINCINNATI

BENGALS

The Cincinnati Bengals had another dismal season, their third 3–13 record in the last four campaigns. And yet, there were grounds for encouragement over their immediate future.

With the first pick in the draft, acquired by trade from the Carolina Panthers, Cincinnati chose Penn State running back Ki-Jana Carter, runner-up for the 1994 Heisman Trophy. The 5–10, 227-pound Carter is a breakaway back with speed and power who averaged 7.8 yards per carry and scored 23 touchdowns in '94. The Bengals had already found a gem of a quarterback last season. The feeling is that this beleagured franchise may be on the verge of significant progress at last.



DAVID W. PRESTON

CARL PICKENS

Eight of the Bengals' 13 losses in 1994 came by eight points or less, and with a break here and there, this team could have finished 8–8. Then again, all three of Cincinnati's victories came on last-play field goals by kicker Doug Pelfrey against Seattle, Houston and Philadelphia, with a combined 15–33 record.

David Shula is back for his fourth season as the team's coach. His 11–37 record includes a painful 23–7 loss to Miami, coached by his father, Don, the first time teams coached by father-son ever met in an NFL game. They'll face each other again this year.

The team's recent history and a reputation for penny-pinching by owner Mike Brown aside, the draft of Carter and the emergence of young Jeff Blake, who started last season as an afterthought No. 3 quarterback, gives the Bengals two exciting young stars to rally around.

Shula's coaching staff underwent a massive shake-up, including the defection of two assistants to the new Carolina expansion franchise. What this team could really use is a massive shake-up in personnel and Brown's willingness to invest in the free-agent market.

Last year, the Bengals payroll was $3 million under the salary cap, perhaps another reason for the team's shoddy showing.

QUARTERBACKS

David Klingler was supposed to be the team's quarterback of the future when he was drafted No. 1 in 1991. But Klingler started the team's first seven games and struggled. When both he and backup Don Hollas went down against the Cleveland Browns, Blake seized the moment and the job.

Blake had spent two seasons on the New York Jets' bench before they waived him late in preseason last year. He ended the season by starting Cincinnati's last nine games and should retain the position this year.

Klinger started 24 games for the Bengals over three years, with four victories and 15 touchdown passes to show for it. Blake had three wins last year and 14 touchdown passes in only nine games.

RUNNING BACKS

A year ago, the running game was virtually non-existent, with the team's top three backs — starting halfback Harold Green, fullback Steve Broussard and halfback Derrick Fenner (since departed for the Los Angeles Raiders) — combining for 1,556 yards and handling most of the carries.

Carter hopes to gain 1,000 yards this season "I know I'm a rookie," he said on the day he was drafted, "but you've got to be hungry. I'm never satisfied."

Free-agent running back Eric Bieniemy of San Diego, signed during the off-season, will battle Carter for playing time.

Rookie Jeff Cothran was the starter at fullback by the end of the season and scored a touchdown the first time he carried the ball. His presence will help.

The Bengals acquired a quality fullback with experience when they signed free agent James Joseph from Philadelphia in the off-season. Joseph, a fourth-year pro, is a versatile performer who saw action at fullback, running back, H-back and tight end.

RECEIVERS

It was a tale of two seasons for Bengal wide receivers Carl Pickens and Darnay

DAVID W. PRESTON

DAN WILKINSON

61
72

CINCINNATI BENGALS

Scott. With Klingler calling signals, they didn't get much action. When Blake took over, the two men took off.

Pickens, who re-signed for four years at $11 million, set a team record with 11 touchdown catches and tied a club mark for receptions with 71. His total yardage of 1,127 was fourth-highest ever by a Bengal.

Scott, a rookie, scored five times on 46 receptions for 866 yards. He averaged 18.8 yards a catch, the highest total in the AFC and No. 5 in the league. Both Scott and Pickens helped the Bengals go deep more than any other team, with 12 passing plays covering 50 yards or longer. Cincinnati picked up Tom Waddle, former Chicago Bear, in the free-agent market.

Tight end Tony McGee managed 40 catches for 492 yards but has to improve his blocking to help out the running game.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

A year ago, the Bengals thought the offensive line would be the least of their problems when they signed free agents Eric Moore, Darrick Brilz and Dave Cadigan. But they missed 13 starts with injuries, and starting offensive tackle Joe Walter was out all year after undergoing reconstructive knee surgery. Barring further injuries, this unit has a chance to be a team strength.

Kevin Sargent should be the starting left tackle, with Cadigan at left guard, Brilz at center, Ken Moyer at right guard and Bruce Kozerski at right tackle. Kozerski was the only Bengal offensive lineman to start all 16 games.

Melvin Tuten from Syracuse was Cincinnati's third-round choice in the draft.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Bengals made some improvement against the run in '94 but still had serious problems mounting much of a pass rush despite the presence of Dan "Big Daddy" Wilkinson, the NFL's No. 1 draft pick last year.

Wilkinson struggled early and at age 22 is still considered a raw talent. He managed only 5½ sacks a year ago, most of them in the second half of the season. Second year defensive end John Copeland, another first-round choice, showed marked improvement, especially against the run. End Mike Flores, a four-year Philadelphia player, was obtained as a free agent.

Tackle Keith Rucker, a third-year man, paced the defensive line with 58 tackles. But the most productive member of the starting unit was right end Alfred Williams, who led the team with 9½ sacks for the second time in his four-year career. He also started every game for the second straight season.

LINEBACKERS

This unit must also show marked improvement if the Bengals hope to win this year. Outside linebacker James Francis started all 16 games and had a career-best 101 tackles.

Ricardo McDonald made the quickest recovery from reconstructive knee surgery in team history, returning to the starting lineup in Game 3, nine months after suffering the injury. He started 13 games, but managed only 45 tackles.

Middle linebacker Steve Tovar also started all 16 games and had 122 tackles, with three forced fumbles and two recovered fumbles. He's quick and a big hitter who should man the middle for the Bengals for the next few years.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Veteran cornerbacks Mike Brim and Rod Jones were mostly ordinary a year ago, collecting only two interceptions between them. Both started 16 games for Cincinnati, which finished ninth in pass defense in the league, a marked improvement from the year before.

Blake Tosses Spark In Bengals' Offense

Despite the frustration of a 3–13 season, Cincinnati fans could never say Bengal games were dull, especially with young Jeff Blake starting at quarterback over the last half of the campaign.

The bomb was back in the Bengals offense, with 12 passing plays of 50 or more yards, more than twice the number of any other team except the Philadelphia Eagles, who had seven pass plays of 50-plus yards.

"We were able to do things that hadn't been done around here, at least in recent memory," says coach David Shula. "That brought a lot of excitement to our games, even though we obviously didn't come up often enough with the final answer."

However, the Bengals did come up with a bona fide quarterback when Blake took over the offense for the last nine games.

Acquired on waivers from the New York Jets on Aug. 29, Blake got his first start against the defending world-champion Dallas Cowboys, and he did not disappoint, with 243 passing yards, two touchdown throws and no interceptions.

Blake, in his third season, finished with eight passing plays of 50 yards or longer, a league high. He was named the AFC's Offensive Player of the Month in November and directed outputs of 300-plus yards in total offense in his first five starts.

"Jeff made some terrific plays when we had to have them," Shula says. "His athletic ability, his ability to get first downs, his ability to run a no-huddle, up-tempo offense and his ability to throw the football down the field were visible throughout."

KI-JANA CARTER

JEFF HIXON

Free safety Darryl Williams had his second straight year of 100-plus tackles and also contributed two interceptions.

Strong safety Fernandus Vinson started the Bengals' last four games after regular Louis Oliver went down in midseason. Oliver was leading the team in interceptions with three and was second in tackles with 57 before a broken bone in his foot forced him to miss the last seven games of the campaign.

KICKING GAME

The Bengals allowed four touchdown returns, two on kickoffs, two on punts. Lee Johnson averaged 43.8 yards on 79 punts, second in the AFC, and Pelfrey set a club record for field goals made with 28. He missed only five kicks.

BUILDING A WINNER

Even with the acquisition of the coveted Carter, it may take time for Cincinnati to return to prominence unless Brown, who also serves as general manager, decides to go wild in free-agent spending. Before the '94 season, he invested $7 million in the market and had little to show for it.

The Bengal coaching staff will suffer because Brown decided not to replace two of the departing assistants. Offensive coordinator Bruce Coslet also will have tight ends under his purview. ■

BENGALS ALL-TIME TEAM

Offense

WR	Isaac Curtis (1973-84)
TE	Bob Trumpy (1968-77)
T	Anthony Munoz (1980-92)
G	Dave Lapham (1974-83)
C	Bob Johnson (1968-79)
G	Max Montoya (1979-89)
T	Vernon Holland (1971-1979)
WR	Cris Collinsworth (1981-88)
QB	Ken Anderson (1971-86)
RB	James Brooks (1984-91)
RB	Pete Johnson (1977-83)
K	Jim Breech (1980-92)

Defense

DE	Ross Browner (1978-86)
DT	Mike Reid (1970-74)
DT	Tim Krumrie (1983-92)
DE	Eddie Edwards (1977-88)
LB	Reggie Williams (1976-89)
LB	Jim LeClair (1972-83)
LB	Glenn Cameron (1975-85)
CB	Ken Riley (1969-83)
FS	Tommy Casanova (1972-77)
SS	David Fulcher (1986-93)
CB	Lemar Parrish (1970-77)
P	Pat McInally (1976-85)

Special Teams - Mike Martin (1983-89)

ROSTER

HEAD COACH: David Shula (NFL Record: 11-37-0)
1994 RECORD: 3-13, 3rd AFC Central

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	EXP.	COLLEGE
15	Ballard, Jim	QB	6-3	223	1	Mt. Union
21	Bieniemy, Eric	RB	5-7	205	4	Colorado
8	Blake, Jeff	QB	6-0	202	3	E. Car.
74	Braham, Rich	T	6-4	290	1	W. Va.
65	Britz, Darrick	G	6-3	287	8	Oregon St.
43	Brim, Mike	CB	6-0	192	7	Va. Union
72	Brumfield, Scott	T	6-8	320	2	BYU
68	Cadigan, Dave	G	6-4	285	7	USC
92	Copeland, John	DE	6-3	286	2	Alabama
46	Cothran, Jeff	FB	6-1	249	1	Ohio State
90	Flores, Mike	DE	6-3	255	4	Louisville
50	Francis, James	LB	6-5	252	5	Baylor
83	Frisch, David	TE	6-7	260	2	Colo. St.
28	Green, Harold	RB	6-2	222	5	So. Car.
45	Hardy, Adrian	CB	5-11	194	2	NW La.
19	Hill, Jeff	WR	5-11	178	1	Purdue
55	Hollinquest, Lamont	LB	6-3	245	2	USC
57	Jefferson, Kevin	LB	6-2	232	1	Lehigh
11	Johnson, Lee	P-K	6-2	200	10	BYU
66	Jones, Dan	T	6-7	298	2	Maine
25	Jones, Rod	CB	6-0	185	9	SMU
24	Jones, Roger	CB	5-9	175	4	Tenn. St.
32	Joseph, James	RB	6-2	222	4	Auburn
7	Klingler, David	QB	6-2	205	3	Houston
64	Kozerski, Bruce	G	6-4	287	11	Holy Cross
56	McDonald, Ricardo	LB	6-2	235	3	Pittsburgh
85	McGee, Tim	WR	5-10	183	9	Tennessee
82	McGee, Tony	TE	6-3	246	2	Michigan
93	Parten, Ty	DE	6-4	272	2	Arizona
9	Pelfrey, Doug	PK	5-11	185	2	Kentucky
80	Pickens, Carl	WR	6-2	206	3	Tennessee
76	Pollard, Trent	T	6-4	304	1	E. Wash.
89	Query, Jeff	WR	6-0	165	6	Millikin
95	Rucker, Keith	DT	6-4	340	3	Ohio Wes.
87	Sadowski, Troy	TE	6-5	250	6	Georgia
77	Sargent, Kevin	T	6-6	284	3	E. Wash.
23	Sawyer, Corey	CB	5-11	171	1	Fla. St.
86	Scott, Darnay	WR	6-1	180	1	S. Diego St.
70	Smith, Artie	DE	6-4	285	2	La. Tech
79	Stallings, Ramondo	DE	6-7	285	1	S. Diego St.
51	Tovar, Steve	LB	6-3	244	2	Ohio State
59	Truitt, Greg	LS	6-0	235	1	Penn St.
67	Von Oelhoffen, Kimo	DT	6-4	300	1	Boise St.
84	Waddle, Tom	WR	6-0	190	5	Boston Col.
27	Walker, Bracey	S	5-10	200	1	N.C.
91	Wallerstedt, Brett	LB	6-1	240	2	Ariz. St.
88	Ware, Derek	TE	6-2	255	3	Cent. St.
4	Wilhelm, Erik	QB	6-3	217	5	Oregon St.
99	Wilkinson, Dan	DT	6-5	313	1	Ohio State
31	Williams, Darryl	S	6-0	191	3	Miami (Fla.)

1995 DRAFT PICKS

ROUND	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	Carter, Ki-Jana	RB	5-11	212	Penn State
3	Tuten, Melvin	OT	6-6	302	Syracuse
4	Shade, Sam	DB	6-1	191	Alabama
5	Dunn, David	WR	6-3	210	Frenso St.
6	Grigson, Ryan	OT	6-5	304	Purdue
7	Walsh, John	QB	6-4	215	BYU

1994 WRAP-UP

TEAM DATA

Total Offense:	299.5 yards per game
Total Defense:	322.1 yards per game
Scoring Offense:	17.3 points per game
Scoring Defense:	25.4 points per game

LEADERS

Passing:	Jeff Blake, 156-306-2154-9, 14 TDs
Rushing:	Derrick Fenner, 141 att., 468 yds., 1 TD
Receiving:	Carl Pickens, 71 rec., 1127 yds., 11 TDs
Kicking:	Doug Pelfrey, 28-33 FGs, 24-25XP, 108 points
Punting:	Lee Johnson, 79 punts, 43.8 avg.
Kickoff Returns:	Eric Ball, 42 ret., 21.8 avg.
Punt Returns:	Corey Sawyer, 26 ret., 11.8 avg., 1 TD
Tackles:	Steve Tovar, 122, 95 solo
Sacks:	Alfred Williams, 9.5
Interceptions:	Louis Oliver, 3 for 36 yds.

RESULTS

Cleveland	20-28	at Seattle (OT)	20-17
at San Diego	10-27	Houston	34-31
New England	28-31	Indianapolis	13-17
at Houston	13-20	at Denver	13-15
Miami	7-23	Pittsburgh	15-38
at Pittsburgh	10-14	at N.Y. Giants	20-27
at Cleveland	13-37	at Arizona	7-28
Dallas	20-23	Philadelphia	33-30

PROJECTED STARTING LINEUP

OFFENSE

80	CARL PICKENS	WR
77	KEVIN SARGENT	LT
68	DAVE CADIGAN	LG
65	DARRICK BRILZ	C
64	BRUCE KOZERSKI	RG
72	SCOTT BRUMFIELD	RT
82	TONY MCGEE	TE
86	DARNAY SCOTT	WR
8	JEFF BLAKE	QB
32	JAMES JOSEPH	FB
	KI-JANA CARTER	RB
9	DOUG PELFREY	K

DEFENSE

92	JOHN COPELAND	LE
99	DAN WILKINSON	LT
95	KEITH RUCKER	RT
90	MIKE FLORES	RE
50	JAMES FRANCIS	OLB
51	STEVE TOVAR	ILB
56	RICARDO MCDONALD	OLB
43	MIKE BRIM	LCB
25	ROD JONES	RCB
27	BRACEY WALKER	SS
31	DARRYL WILLIAMS	FS
11	LEE JOHNSON	P

Personnel changes made after April 22 may not be reflected.

Information provided by Al Heim, Director of Public Relations.

HOUSTON

OILERS

It would have been difficult to imagine the Houston Oilers having a more tumultuous season last year then they did in 1993, when the team recovered from a 1–4 start to win the AFC Central Division.

Two years ago, the franchise was rocked by the near-firing of coach Jack Pardee, a player suicide and the punch heard round the football world thrown by then-defensive coordinator Buddy Ryan at then-offensive coordinator Kevin Gilbride.

But last year, things obviously went from bad to worse. No, make that rock bottom. The Oilers became the first team in National Football League history to go from having the best record one year (tie) to the worst in the next.

LAYNE MURDOCH

MARK STEPNOSKI

Of course, that 2–14 mark did allow Houston a high pick in the draft, which it used to select heralded quarterback Steve McNair of Alcorn State.

Many faces have changed since the '93 season. Last year's 1–9 start cost both Pardee and Gilbride their jobs. It also meant the scrapping of Houston's run-and-shoot offense in favor of a multiple-set attack that emphasized the running game.

Jeff Fisher, the man elevated from the staff to replace Pardee, lost his first five games before a season-ending victory over the New York Jets. But Fisher is a well-respected football man and has a three-year contract to turn this team around.

There should not be another reversal of fortune this year, with the Oilers vaulting back to the top of the AFC Central, but Houston should be able to improve on last year's performance.

QUARTERBACKS

McNair won't make Houston fans forget Warren Moon right away, but he just might be the solution to the Oilers' quarterback quandary.

At 6-2, 218-pounds, McNair has been called a total package. He broke former BYU signal-caller Ty Detmer's Division I record for total offense with 16,813 yards. For his senior season, McNair finished third in the Heisman Trophy race after passing for 4,863 yards and 44 touchdowns, and rushing for 936 yards and nine TDs.

Carlson got the job last year mostly because of money. The team was not prepared to pay him and Moon about $3 million each, so Moon, seven years older, was allowed to move on to Minnesota. Carlson had shown flashes of brilliance in previous years as Moon's backup, but last year he never was healthy. He separated his shoulder in the season opener, came back too soon and hurt his knee, now surgically repaired.

When Carlson was healthy enough to play, he completed only 44.7 percent of his throws, with one touchdown pass and four interceptions.

His replacements, popular and plucky Bucky Richardson and Billy Joe Tolliver, who has since departed, clearly were not the answer. During the off-season, Houston signed free agent Chris Chandler, a former Los Angeles Ram, who could start if Carlson fails to regain his pre-injury form and if McNair is not yet ready for NFL play.

RUNNING BACKS

This may be one of the team's few strengths, particularly if Gary Brown can regain his form from the '93 season, when he carried the team into the playoffs. That year, starting running back Lorenzo White went down at midseason with hamstring problems and Brown came on to gain over 1,000 yards in the last eight games. Last season, Brown suffered a series of nagging injuries that affected his performance, and White took over as the starter.

If Brown is healthy, that will help. White, gone via free agency, led the team in rushing with 757 yards; Brown was next with 648. The Oilers also employed an H-back last year, primarily for blocking purposes. Starter John Henry Mills did not carry the ball and had only one reception.

LARRY KINKER

RAY CHILDRESS

79

HOUSTON OILERS

RECEIVERS

Once a great strength in the run-and-shoot days, the Oilers were in a state of flux in the off-season. They waived veteran Haywood Jeffires, the team's co-leading receiver with veteran Webster Slaughter, who also may not return. Both caught 68 passes. Jeffires was among the team's most popular players.

Ernest Givins' production fell off, particularly over the last half of the campaign. He finished with 36 receptions and became Houston's all-time leader in receiving yards.

The Oilers added a tight end to their offensive scheme, a position that should get more attention. Pat Carter manned the spot and, with the switch to a conventional attack over the last five games, he caught eight of his 11 receptions.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Oilers signed former Dallas center Mark Stepnoski (four years, $9.2 million) to their roster as a free agent. He replaces Bruce Matthews, who was named to the AFC Pro Bowl team for the seventh straight year.

This unit was one of the few not devastated by injury. Only right guard Kevin Donnalley missed any starts, and he should keep his spot. Brad Hopkins returns at left tackle, with David Williams at right tackle.

Three Houston quarterbacks were sacked a league-high 65 times, leading to the departure of veteran line coach Bob Young. He'll be replaced by former Jet assistant Larry Beightol.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Defensive end Lamar Lathon made a successful switch from outside linebacker to defensive end, leading the team in sacks with a career-high 8½, three forced fumbles and one fumble recovery. But he's no longer around, signing as a free agent with Carolina. Henry Ford, who did not start a game for the Oilers last year as a rookie, takes over the position.

Tackle Ray Childress, with six sacks, remains a force inside. End Kenny Davidson set new season highs in total tackles (68), solo tackles (47) and sacks (six). Tackle Glenn Montgomery also had his best statistical year, including three fumble recoveries.

LINEBACKERS

Houston's "46" defense, installed the previous year by Ryan and continued by Fisher, ended up ninth in total defense, with the linebacking corps making major contributions.

Middle linebacker Al Smith led the team with 142 tackles, including 97 solos, and now has posted at least 100 tackles in five of his first eight seasons. Outside linebackers Eddie Robinson and Micheal Barrow also contributed to a defense that held opponents to 17 points or less in 10 games. Barrow finished with 99 tackles, double his previous year's output.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Cornerback Darryll Lewis, re-signed over a five-year period for $8 million, led the team in interceptions with five, one more than opposite corner Cris Dishman, who started every game and had his first career touchdown on an interception.

Safeties were the strength of the secondary. In only his second season, strong safety

STEVE McNAIR

ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY

Though Pros, They'll Be Students Under Fisher

Houston coach Jeff Fisher gets his professorial attitude from Buddy Ryan, his former mentor and now coach of the Arizona Cardinals.

Fisher played cornerback for the Chicago Bears on Ryan's "46" defense. He coached under Ryan in Philadelphia from 1986-1990, and in 1989, Ryan made him the youngest defensive coordinator in the league at age 31.

Though Fisher coached the San Francisco 49ers defensive backs in '93 when Ryan became Houston's defensive coordinator, Fisher replaced Ryan in that position with the Oilers at the start of the 1994 season before taking over as head coach when Jack Pardee was fired following a 1–9 start.

"When I was an assistant under Buddy, he expected his assistants to teach," Fisher says. "That's what I've carried on. I'm probably a little more patient with the players then he is when it comes to explaining things to them.

"I think the biggest thing I've taken from him is his directness and the ability to be honest. A lot of times the players will disagree with you, but honesty is the biggest thing."

Fisher has many supporters around the NFL. That's one reason Houston owner Bud Adams decided to stick with him despite the team's 1–5 finish.

"He's a pretty neat guy," says San Francisco team president Carmen Policy. "I'll never forget when I sat down with him for the first time after (49ers coach) George Seifert asked me to talk to him. When you talk to Jeff, you quickly get the feeling this is a guy who really knows what he's doing, a guy who has a great deal to bring to the table."

The Oilers and their fans certainly hope so.

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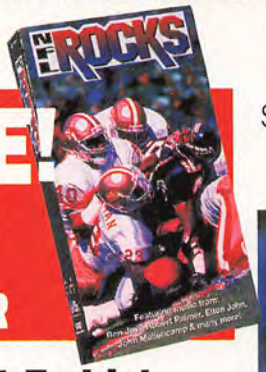

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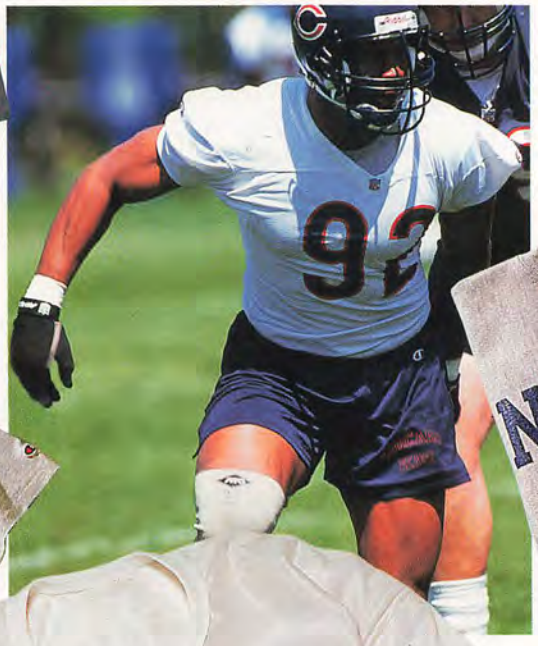

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Blaine Bishop, an eighth-round pick, started the last 13 games. He led the team in tackles in five games and finished second for the season with 116. Free safety Marcus Robertson wound up third with 111 tackles and added three interceptions, starting throughout.

KICKING GAME

The Oilers got outstanding performances from both kickers. Punter Rich Camarillo set a team record with 96, for a 42.9-yard average, and dropped 34 kicks inside the 20.

Placekicker Al Del Greco, a free agent who may not return, didn't get many chances, but hit 16 of his 20 field-goal attempts and made his last 10 kicks. His average field goal of 37.4 yards led the NFL.

Houston's kickoff-coverage teams led the NFL, limiting opponents to only 17 yards a return, and the punt coverage unit also was strong. Givins continued to return punts and averaged 5.7 yards; kickoff returner Todd McNair averaged 20.9 yards.

BUILDING A WINNER

Fisher clearly has his work cut out for him in his first full year as coach. This team had better talent than it showed last year. If McNair can step in and deliver, and if the line, bolstered by the addition of Stepnoski, can improve its pass blocking, the Oilers have a chance to finish 8–8. Anything better probably would be wishful thinking.■

OILERS ALL-TIME TEAM

Offense

WR	Charlie Hennigan (1960-66)
TE	Alvin Reed (1967-72)
T	Glen Ray Hines (1966-70)
G	Mike Munchak (1982-)
C	Bruce Matthews (1983-)
G	Bob Talamini (1960-67)
T	Leon Gray (1979-81)
WR	Ken Burrough (1971-81)
QB	Warren Moon (1984-93)
RB	Earl Campbell (1978-84)
RB	Billy Cannon (1960-63)
K	George Blanda (1960-66)

Defense

DE	Elvin Bethea (1968-83)
DT	Ray Childress (1985-)
DT	Curley Culp (1974-80)
DE	William Fuller (1986-93)
LB	Robert Brazile (1975-84)
LB	Gregg Bingham (1973-84)
LB	George Webster (1967-72)
CB	Miller Farr (1967-69)
S	Jim Norton (1960-68)
S	Ken Houston (1967-72)
CB	Tony Banfield (1960-65)
P	Greg Montgomery (1988-93)

Special Teams - Billy Johnson (1974-80)

ROSTER

HEAD COACH: Jeff Fisher (NFL Record: 1–5–0)
1994 RECORD: 2-14, 4th AFC Central

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	EXP.	COLLEGE
22	Barnes, Tomur	CB	5–10	188	1	N. Tx. St.
56	Barrow, Micheal	LB	6–1	236	2	Miami (Fla.)
23	Bishop, Blaine	S	5–9	197	2	Ball State
59	Bowden, Joe	LB	5–11	230	3	Oklahoma
33	Brown, Gary	RB	5–11	233	4	Penn State
89	Brown, Reggie	WR	6–1	195	2	Ala. State
16	Camarillo, Rich	P	5–11	202	14	Washington
14	Carlson, Cody	QB	6–3	202	8	Baylor
85	Carter, Pat	TE	6–4	258	7	Fla. State
17	Chandler, Chris	QB	6–4	220	7	Washington
79	Childress, Ray	DT	6–6	272	10	Texas A&M
90	Davidson, Kenny	DE	6–5	288	5	LSU
3	Del Greco, Al	K	5–10	200	11	Auburn
28	Dishman, Chris	CB	6–0	188	7	Purdue
77	Donnalley, Kevin	G-T	6–5	305	4	N.C.
55	Flannery, John	G-C	6–3	304	4	Syracuse
92	Ford, Henry	DE	6–3	284	1	Arkansas
81	Givins, Ernest	WR	5–9	178	9	Louisville
21	Gray, Mel	WR-KR	5–9	171	9	Purdue
82	Hannah, Travis	WR	5–7	161	2	USC
72	Hopkins, Brad	T	6–3	306	2	Illinois
24	Jackson, Steve	CB	5–8	182	4	Purdue
29	Lewis, Darryll	CB	5–9	183	4	Arizona
49	Lewis, Roderick	TE	6–5	254	1	Arizona
48	Mills, John Henry	HB-TE	6–0	222	2	Wk. Forest
94	Montgomery, Glenn	DT	6–0	282	6	Houston
64	Norgard, Erik	C-G	6–1	282	6	Colorado
93	Nunley, Jeremy	DE	6–5	278	1	Alabama
7	Richardson, Bucky	QB	6–1	228	3	Texas A&M
31	Robertson, Marcus	S	5–11	197	4	Iowa St.
50	Robinson, Eddie	LB	6–1	245	3	Ala. State
83	Seabron, Malcolm	WR	6–0	194	1	Fresno St.
84	Slaughter, Webster	WR	6–1	175	9	S. Diego St.
54	Smith, Al	LB	6–1	244	8	Utah State
53	Stepnoski, Mark	C	6–2	264	6	Pittsburgh
32	Tillman, Spencer	RB	5–11	206	8	Oklahoma
88	Wellman, Gary	WR	5–9	173	3	USC
73	Williams, David	T	6–5	292	6	Florida
10	Williamson, Lee	QB	6–4	206	1	Presbyterian (Ga.)
52	Wortham, Barron	LB	5–11	244	1	UTEP

1995 DRAFT PICKS

ROUND	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	McNair, Steve	QB	6-1	224	Alcorn St.
2	Cook, Athony	DT	6-4	280	South Carolina St.
3	Sanders, Chris	WR	6-1	180	Ohio State
3	Thomas, Rodney	RB	5-11	202	Texas A&M
3	Hunter, Torey	DB	5-10	176	Washington St.
4	Roan, Michael	TE	6-4	246	Wisconsin
5	Walker, Gary	DE	6-3	280	Auburn
6	El-Mashtoub, Hicham	C	6-3	295	Arizona
7	Richardson, C.J.		6-1	205	Miami

1994 WRAP-UP

TEAM DATA

Total Offense:	280.1 yards per game
Total Defense:	307.2 yards per game
Scoring Offense:	14.1 points per game
Scoring Defense:	22.0 points per game

LEADERS

Passing:	Billy Joe Tolliver, 121–240–1287–7, 6 TDs
Rushing:	Lorenzo White, 191 att., 757 yds., 3 TDs
Receiving:	Webster Slaughter, 68 rec., 846 yds., 2 TDs
Kicking:	Al Del Greco, 16–20 FGs, 18–18 XP, 66 points
Punting:	Rich Camarillo, 96 punts, 42.9 avg.
Kickoff Returns:	Todd McNair, 23 ret., 20.9 avg.
Punt Returns:	Ernest Givens, 37 ret., 5.7 avg., 1 TD
Tackles:	Al Smith, 142, 97 solo
Sacks:	Lamar Lathon, 8.5
Interceptions:	Darryll Lewis, 5 for 57 yards

RESULTS

at Indianapolis	21–45	Pittsburgh (OT)	9–12
at Dallas	17–20	at Cincinnati	31–34
Buffalo	7–15	N.Y. Giants	10–13
Cincinnati	20–13	at Cleveland	10–34
at Pittsburgh	14–30	Arizona	12–30
Cleveland	8–11	Seattle	14–16
at Philadelphia	6–21	at Kansas City	9–31
at L.A. Raiders	14–17	N.Y. Jets	24–10

PROJECTED STARTING LINEUP

OFFENSE

84	WEBSTER SLAUGHTER	WR
72	BRAD HOPKINS	LT
55	JOHN FLANNERY	LG
53	MARK STEPNOSKI	C
77	KEVIN DONNALLEY	RG
73	DAVID WILLIAMS	RT
85	PAT CARTER	TE
81	ERNEST GIVINS	WR
17	CHRIS CHANDLER	QB
33	GARY BROWN	RB
48	JOHN HENRY MILLS	HB
3	AL DEL GRECO	K

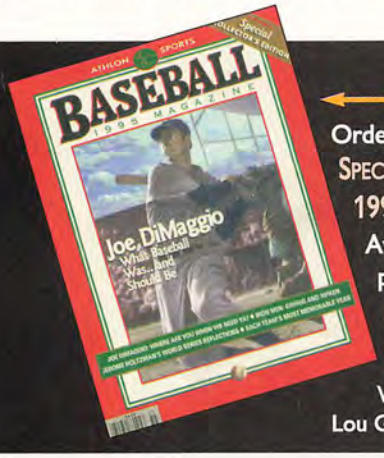
DEFENSE

90	KENNY DAVIDSON	LE
79	RAY CHILDRESS	LT
94	GLENN MONTGOMERY	RT
50	EDDIE ROBINSON	LLB
54	AL SMITH	MLB
56	MICHEAL BARROW	RLB
28	CRIS DISHMAN	LCB
29	DARRYLL LEWIS	RCB
23	BLAINE BISHOP	SS
31	MARCUS ROBERTSON	FS
16	RICH CAMARILLO	P

Personnel changes made after April 22 may not be reflected.

Information provided by Dave Pearson, Director of Media Relations.

DON'T MISS THE ACTION!



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JACKSONVILLE

JAGUARS

Even if Jacksonville has the horrendous luck of Tampa Bay in 1976 and finishes its first season ever without a single win, the Jaguars can take solace in the fact that they have already pulled off one of the biggest recent upsets in the National Football League.

Jacksonville's acquisition of an NFL expansion franchise was a long shot, mainly because the city is a relatively small market that can deliver only the 55th-largest local television audience in the country. The city even quit the expansion race altogether, in July 1993, over a Gator Bowl renovation dispute.

But shortly after that, Jacksonville took up the fight again, eventually reeling in a franchise, thanks to the deep pockets of owner and Connecticut-based shoe store magnate J. Wayne Weaver, along with massive support from Jacksonville's fans.

PAUL JASIENSKI

STEVE BEUERLEIN

The team will have the advantage of playing in the AFC Central, which housed two of the worst teams in the league in Houston and Cincinnati. The Jaguars also picked up an experienced quarterback early in Steve Beuerlein and have spent a lot of money to scatter some decent free agents around him.

Jacksonville's coach is Tom Coughlin, who was hired away from Boston College

The Jaguars will play their home games in the Gator Bowl, renovated at a cost of $125 million and expanded to seat 73,000.

Coughlin made sure his two coordinators had NFL experience. Former Green Bay defensive backs coach Dick Jauron runs the defense. Ex-Houston offensive coordinator Kevin Gilbride heads the offense and will utilize a traditional offense with numerous three-wide-receiver sets.

QUARTERBACKS

In the expansion draft, both Carolina and Jacksonville wanted Beuerlein, but the Jaguars had first pick and immediately grabbed the former Arizona quarterback. Beuerlein started seven games for the Cardinals, throwing for 1,545 yards. His backup may be Andre Ware, the first quarterback Jacksonville signed

RUNNING BACKS

The Jaguars have high hopes for Reggie Cobb, who had several good years for Tampa Bay.

Cobb is representative of Jacksonville's thinking. The Jaguars took chances on a number of former early draft picks who have not played well recently, including New England guard Eugene Chung, New York Giants tight end Derek Brown, Ware and wide receiver Desmond Howard.

Cobb will see competition from several players, including James Stewart, who set the career-rushing record at Tennessee and was picked in the first round of the draft. When the Jaguars use a fullback, Dexter McNabb could be the man.

RECEIVERS

Howard gets a new start in Jacksonville. A Heisman Trophy winner at Michigan and the fourth overall pick in the 1992 draft, he was ridiculed in Washington for failing to live up to expectations. But he came on well at the end of '94, ending the year with 40 receptions for 727 yards and five touchdowns.

Jacksonville native Kelvin Martin, who caught 56 passes for 681 yards for Seattle, will man the other wideout spot.

Coughlin would like Brown to develop into a big-time tight end. At 6–6, 260, the former Notre Dame star was a disappointment with the Giants, catching only seven passes in the last two years.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Jaguars used the second pick in the draft to take 6-7, 323-pound offensive tackle Tony Boselli of Southern California. He could be an immediate, longtime starter. The other tackle appears to be up for grabs, with Rickie Shaw, Jeff Novak and second-round draft pick Brian DeMarco from Michigan State vying as the starter. Chung and former Detroit Lion Shawn Bouwens will man the guards, with Dave Widell at center.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Jaguars' concerted effort to have an adequate pass rush their first season may well pay off. The team signed some fairly well-known linemen, including Jeff Lageman, the former New York Jet who will be at right defensive end.

The other end is a projection. Joel Smeenge, formerly of the New Orleans Saints, has been tried at both outside linebacker and defensive end without any real success.

Defensive tackle Kelvin Pritchett, who had been with Detroit, provides an anchor in the middle. Former Packer Don Davey will likely team with Pritchett inside.

LINEBACKERS

Jacksonville spent some money in the expansion draft on this position. They selected former New Orleans Saint James Williams, deciding to pay his $1.175 million salary this season. Williams started seven games at right inside linebacker and was the NFC Defensive Player of theWeek once. He probably will man one of the outside positions.

In the middle, Keith Goganious should flourish. Goganious, formerly of Buffalo, was a player the Panthers also wanted on expansion day. There may be another Williams in the mix as well, Mark Williams, an outside linebacker from Green Bay, not to mention second-round draft selection Bryan Schwartz from Augustana (S.D.) College.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

The Jaguars will have some experience in the secondary with free safety Darren Carrington, an every-game starter for San Diego this past season. A member of the secondary that was scorched for seven touchdowns in Super Bowl XXIX, he is a better performer than that.

Jacksonville signed Vinnie Clark and Mickey Washington with the idea that each would start at a cornerback position. Clark has kicked around the league a little but played well for New Orleans at the end of the season. He will have his hands full fending off 1994 All-American Chris Hudson, a third-round draft choice. Washington is also a journeyman but had some good moments for Buffalo.

The strong safety position could be won by Othello Henderson, an expansion draftee who previously was with the Saints.

KICKING GAME

The Jaguars have signed Scott Sisson as a placekicker and Bryan Barker as their punter. Neither is terribly impressive but should be adequate. Howard and Martin will split kick-returning chores.

ROSTER

HEAD COACH: Tom Coughlin (NFL Record: 0-0-0)
1994 RECORD: 0-0

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	EXP.	COLLEGE
	Baker, Shannon	WR	5-10	190	2	Fla. State
	Barker, Bryan	P	6-1	187	6	Santa Clara
	Beuerlein, Steve	QB	6-3	210	8	Notre Dame
	Bouwens, Shawn	G	6-4	290	5	Neb.-Wes.
	Boyer, Brant	OLB	6-0	237	2	Arizona
	Boykin, Deral	SS	5-11	196	3	Louisville
	Brown, Derek	TE	6-6	260	4	Notre Dame
	Brown, Leon	RB	5-10	190	1	E. Kentucky
	Butler, Hillary	OLB	6-2	250	1	Washington
	Carrington, Darren	FS	6-2	200	7	No. Ariz.
	Carthen, Jason	ILB	6-3	255	2	Ohio
	Chung, Eugene	G	6-4	295	4	Va. Tech.
	Clark, Reggie	OLB	6-2	225	2	N.C.
	Clark, Vinnie	CB	6-0	192	5	Ohio State
	Cobb, Reggie	RB	6-0	215	6	Tennessee
	Collins, Ron	G-OT	6-5	289	1	Fresno St.
	Collons, Ferric	DT	6-6	300	2	California
	Colon, Harry	FS	6-0	203	5	Missouri
	Dausin, Chris	C	6-5	285	1	Texas A&M
	Davenport, Charles	WR	6-3	216	4	N.C. State
	Davey, Don	DT	6-4	270	5	Wisconsin
	Davis, Michael	CB	6-1	192	2	Cincinnati
	Dillard, Ivory	G-OT	6-3	299	1	Fla. A&M
	Duff, John	DE	6-7	250	2	New Mex.
	Etheredge, Carlos	TE	6-5	259	2	Miami (Fla.)
	Floyd, Gonzalo	DE	6-3	260	1	UTEP
	Frase, Paul	DT	6-5	260	7	Syracuse
	Freeman, Reggie	OLB	6-2	233	2	Fla. State
	Goganious, Keith	ILB	6-2	239	4	Penn St.
	Green, Rogerick	CB	6-0	184	4	Kansas St.
	Griffith, Rich	TE	6-5	252	2	Arizona
	Grow, Monty	SS	6-3	214	2	Florida
	Hall, Ray	DT	6-4	267	1	Wash. St.
	Harris, Willie	WR	6-2	196	1	Miss. St.
	Henderson, Othello	SS	6-0	192	3	UCLA
	Howard, Desmond	WR	5-9	180	4	Michigan
	Huntington, Greg	G	6-3	295	2	Penn St.
	Jackson, Al	CB	6-0	182	2	Georgia
	Jackson, Willie	WR	6-1	205	2	Florida
	Jordan, Randy	RB	5-10	208	2	N.C.
	Lageman, Jeff	DE	6-5	266	6	Virginia
	Logan, Ernie	DE	6-4	280	4	E. Car.
	Martin, Kelvin	WR	5-9	162	9	Bost. Coll.
	Mason, Andy	OLB	6-2	228	1	Washington
	Maston, Le'Shai	RB	6-1	232	3	Baylor
	Mayfield, Corey	DT	6-3	290	2	Oklahoma
	McCoy, Ryan	ILB	6-2	237	1	Houston
	McManus, Tom	ILB	6-2	240	1	Bost. Coll.
	McNabb, Dexter	FB	6-2	245	3	Florida
	Mills, Vidal	SS	5-11	190	1	B.-Cook.
	Morton, John	WR	6-0	185	1	W. Mich.
	Myslinski, Tom	G	6-2	289	3	Tennessee
	Novak, Jeff	OT	6-5	295	2	SW Tex. St.
	Pritchett, Kelvin	DE	6-2	281	4	Mississippi
	Raymond, Corey	CB	5-11	185	4	LSU
	Robinson, Frank	CB	5-11	180	3	Boise St.
	Royster, Mazio	RB	6-1	200	4	USC
	Schorp, Greg	TE	6-3	242	1	Texas A&M
	Shaw, Rickie	OT	6-5	305	2	N.C.
	Siever, Paul	G	6-6	294	3	Penn St.
	Simmons, Jason	DE	6-5	250	1	Ohio State
	Simmons, Marcello	CB	6-1	180	2	SMU
	Sisson, Scott	PK	6-0	197	2	Ga. Tech
	Smeenge, Joel	DE	6-5	250	6	W. Mich.
	Smith, Jimmy	WR	6-1	205	3	Jackson St.
	Stephens, Santo	OLB	6-4	232	3	Temple
	Sutton, Ricky	DT	6-2	281	2	Auburn
	Thomas, Dave	CB	6-2	205	3	Tennessee
	Tillman, Cedric	WR	6-2	204	4	Alcorn St.
	Tucker, Mark	C	6-3	290	3	USC
	Ware, Andre	QB	6-2	220	5	Houston
	Widell, Dave	C	6-6	292	7	Bost. Coll.
	Williams, Chris	DT	6-3	281	1	Hampton
	Williams, James	OLB	6-0	230	6	Miss. St.
	Williams, Mark	OLB	6-3	240	2	Ohio State
	Wilson, Marcus	RB	6-1	215	4	Virginia

PROJECTED STARTING LINEUP

OFFENSE

DESMOND HOWARD	WR
TONY BOSELLI	LT
SHAWN BOUWENS	LG
DAVE WIDELL	C
EUGENE CHUNG	RG
BRIAN DeMARCO	RT
DEREK BROWN	TE
KELVIN MARTIN	WR
STEVE BEUERLEIN	QB
REGGIE COBB	RB
DEXTER MCNABB	FB
SCOTT SISSON	K

DEFENSE

JOEL SMEENGE	LDE
DON DAVEY	LT
KELVIN PRITCHETT	RT
JEFF LAGEMAN	RDE
MARK WILLIAMS	OLB
KEITH GOGANIOUS	MLB
JAMES WILLIAMS	OLB
VINNIE CLARK	LCB
MICKEY WASHINGTON	RCB
DARREN CARRINGTON	FS
OTHELLO HENDERSON	SS
BRYAN BARKER	P

1995 DRAFT PICKS

ROUND	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	Boselli, Tony	OT	6-8	305	USC
1	Stewart, James	RB	6-1	218	Tennessee
2	DeMarco, Brian	OT	6-7	316	Mich. St.
2	Schwartz, Bryan	LB	6-3	250	Augustana (SD)
3	Hudson, Chris	DB	5-11	195	Colorado
4	Johnson, Rob	QB	6-4	220	USC
4	Thompson, Mike	DT	6-4	275	Wisconsin
5	Christopherson, Ryan	RB	6-0	236	Wyoming
6	Price, Marcus	OT	6-6	307	LSU
6	McCrary, Fred	RB	6-0	210	Miss. St.
7	Marsh, Curtis	WR	6-2	209	Utah

Personnel changes made after April 22 may not be reflected.

Information provided by Dan Edwards, Director of Public Relations.

BUILDING A WINNER

The Jaguars basically will be developing younger players, and all of their draft picks will be given a solid chance. Jacksonville gets 14 picks, rather than the usual seven, one more time — in the 1996 draft. Those selections will be critical for the club.

It will be a miracle if the Jaguars win more than five games in their first NFL season with a piecemeal squad. But with the extra draft picks and the ability to build a team from scratch, there is potential for Jacksonville to make the playoffs by its third or fourth season. ■

MIAMI

DOLPHINS

In 1984, quarterback Dan Marino's second season, the Miami Dolphins swept through the American Football Conference and advanced to the Super Bowl.

"I thought it was going to be so easy to do that," Marino says. "I expected us to be in the Super Bowl just about every season."

But the Dolphins haven't been back since losing 38–16 to San Francisco in January 1985. For both the 33-year-old Marino and 65-year-old coach Don Shula, time is running out.

Perhaps this will be the season that Marino and Shula finally cast off the cloak of frustration that has enveloped them over the past decade. It certainly didn't happen last year, when a 48-yard field-goal attempt by Pete Stoyanovich sailed wide right, ending the Dolphins' season with a 22–21 loss to San Diego in a divisional playoff game.

STEVE WOLTHANN

IRVING FRYAR

Miami's offense, which led the National Football League in total yardage, may be even stronger since starting running backs Terry Kirby and Keith Byars both are back from knee injuries.

QUARTERBACKS

Marino hobbled throughout the 1994 season. His torn right Achilles tendon never fully healed. He was able to set up in the pocket and throw but frequently could be seen favoring the ankle when he walked.

Marino considered additional surgery during the off-season but instead decided on a program of more aggressive rehabilitation. His right ankle should be no worse than it was last season, when he led the AFC in passing efficiency, and it probably will be better. That does not bode well for opponents of Danny Franchise.

Former Cleveland quarterback Bernie Kosar is a seasoned backup. He managed to make a significant contribution last season despite not playing much; he was the one who thought to call the trick play that beat the New York Jets 28–24 when Marino faked a spike and then threw the game-winning touchdown pass to Mark Ingram, who scored with 22 seconds left.

RUNNING BACKS

The most interesting battle of training camp will be waged here. Kirby, the Dolphins' starter in 1994 until he injured his knee, is back. Waiting for him is Bernie Parmalee, the former UPS package sorter who ran for 868 yards in Kirby's place.

Parmalee picked up only 14 yards rushing in 1993; his 854-yard increase represented the best single-season improvement in the NFL last year. Kirby may have an edge because of his fine receiving skills, but the Dolphins will play both backs. Irving Spikes, who led the team with a 4.5-yard rushing average and finished second with 312 yards, will also contribute in the backfield.

Byars returns at fullback after a serious knee injury. He caught 49 passes despite playing only nine games and again will be used mainly as a blocker and receiver. James Saxon, who was competent on special teams, should return as the backup fullback.

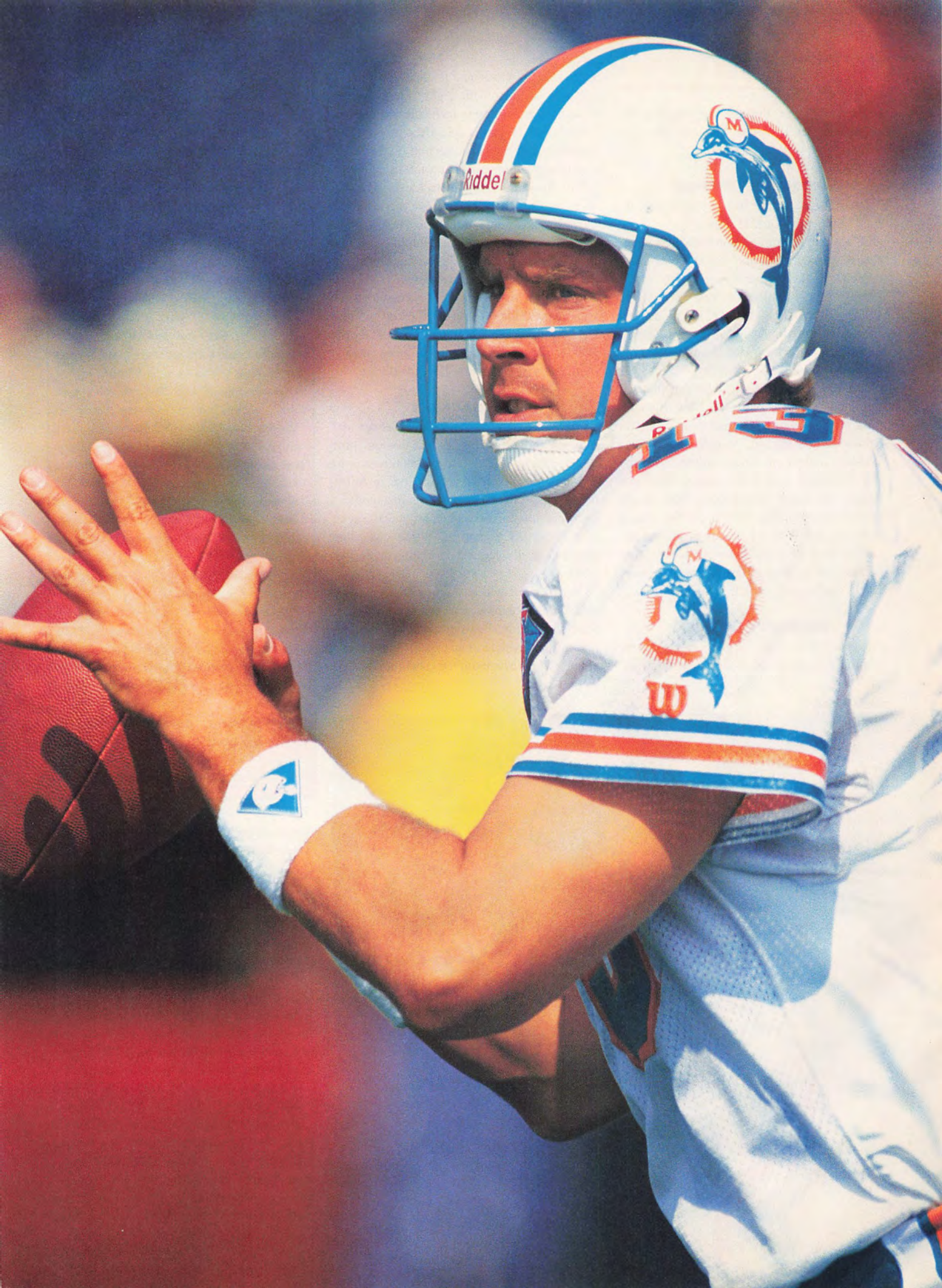
RECEIVERS

Wide receiver Irving Fryar, at age 32, shows no signs of diminishing skills. A minister known for religiously maintaining his body, Fryar again should be Marino's go-to guy. Fryar led Miami in catches (73) and receiving yards (1,270) in '94 and tied tight end Keith Jackson for the team lead in touchdown receptions (seven).

The other wide receiver position is not set. Ingram fumed for part of last season that the Dolphins weren't getting the ball to him enough. He was traded to Green Bay. O.J. McDuffie may step up. He was Miami's third receiver last season (37 receptions, five runs) and picked up 31 first downs. The Dolphins acquired free agent Randal Hill, who caught 38 passes without a touchdown for Arizona in '94. Hill had been Miami's first-round draft selection in 1991 before his trade to the Cardinals. Hill and McDuffie will contest for Ingram's vacated position.

In addition, Miami acquired tight end Eric Green, the Pittsburgh Steelers' Designated

STEVE WOLTHANN


Riddell

MIAMI DOLPHINS

Franchise Player, through free agency this off-season. He'll replace Jackson, who also went to Green Bay in a trade.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The left side of the line is superb in contrast to the questionable right side.

Left tackle Richmond Webb and left guard Keith Sims form one of the strongest tandems in the league. Webb has been selected to the Pro Bowl in each of his five years in the NFL, and the Dolphins feel comfortable letting him protect Marino's blind side. Sims has made the Pro Bowl the past two seasons.

Center Jeff Dellenbach, who can play all five line positions, left for New England through free agency. Second-year man Tim Ruddy should step in. At right guard, Bert Weidner underwent ankle surgery after the '94 campaign and won't return until late August or early September. That means Chris Gray probably will open the season there, unless Weidner makes a quicker recovery than expected. At right tackle, Ron Heller still holds the starting job but could face a challenge from a free agent or two.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Dolphins made a good move by re-signing Jeff Cross to a five-year contract. Cross was the team's best pass rusher, recording 9½ sacks, and anchors left end.

The bookend on the right side is Marco Coleman, who often is seen celebrating with linebacker Bryan Cox after big plays. Coleman had six sacks, second on the team, and needs to improve that total.

Tim Bowens, a rookie tackle in Miami's 4–3 defense, was given rave reviews for clogging the middle of the line. He also managed three sacks, and the Dolphins believe they have a future All-Pro on their hands.

The other defensive tackle will be Chuck Klingbeil, whom the Dolphins re-signed for four years in the off-season. Backups will be Craig Veasey and William Gaines. Larry Webster, a versatile backup, will see considerable service at several line positions.

LINEBACKERS

Cox is the defense's emotional leader and may do more blitzing, especially on third down. One of the defense's weaknesses in '94 was the result of using Cox in third-down pass coverage, wasting his quarterback-pursuit skills (he once logged 14 sacks in a season). Cox had just three sacks last year but easily led the Dolphins with 147 tackles.

On Cox's left will be Aubrey Beavers, who started as a rookie last season and played well. Raw but athletic, Beavers made two brilliant diving interceptions. On Cox's right will be either Chris Singleton or Dwight Hollier. Singleton may exit via free agency, which would leave Hollier as the front-runner.

BRYAN COX

MICHAEL YELMAN

DEFENSIVE BACKS

This unit had trouble as Miami ranked 25th in pass defense. The Dolphins don't see the need to call in the cavalry, however, so the same lineup will return: Troy Vincent and J.B. Brown at the corners, and Michael Stewart and Gene Atkins at the safeties.

Vincent, the Dolphins' most-touted defensive back, led the team in interceptions with five and passes defensed with 20. But he also got lost on the last touchdown pass that San Diego threw in Miami's final playoff game.

Brown had three interceptions and continues to hold the right cornerback job. Strong safety Stewart and free safety Akins made their marks primarily on run support. Stewart was second on the team in tackles with 110; Atkins was third with 81. Both

Big Bo Puts on a Show

They call him Big Bo, and one thing is certain: Tim Bowens is extremely large. The 6–4, 317-pound tackle is the anchor of Miami's interior run defense.

"He's got the ability to blow things up," says Kansas City coach Marty Schottenheimer.

Yes, he does. Bowens, The Associated Press Defensive Rookie of the Year in 1994, was a primary reason Miami set a team record by allowing only 89.4 rushing yards per game.

Dolphins defensive coordinator Tom Olivadotti compares Bowens to Seattle's Cortez Kennedy. While Kennedy was a great NFL player by his third year, Olivadotti says Bowens may get there in two. "We're asking him to speed up Kennedy's schedule by one season," says Olivadotti, who wants Bowens to improve on his '94 total of three sacks.

Bowens, Miami's first-round draft pick last year, hails from Okolona, Miss. As a high school junior, he was stabbed in the back three times. He also sliced off part of three toes on his left foot in a lawn mower accident while in high school.

Bowens never cared much for school. After two years at a Mississippi community college and one year at Ole Miss, he declared early for the pro draft. Football has been his life, he says, and his ticket out of Okolona.

The Dolphins worry about Bowen's weight. He occasionally falls prey to Southern cooking, which can push his poundage into the high 330s. That's one reason why many NFL teams had projected that Bowens wouldn't be selected until the second round.

But Miami took the gamble and it has paid off.

"I'm just big ol' Tim, just a country boy from Mississippi," Bowens protests.

The Dolphins think he is something more.

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Converts	1pt	Fumbles/TD	10pts
2 pt.Conversion	2pts		
Field goals	3pts		

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SELECT ONE (1) PLAYER FROM EACH OF THE 12 BOXES. LAST YEAR'S POINTS INDICATED/TEAMS MAY CHANGE

01 . Quarterbacks

❑ 1	D. MARINO, MIA	600
❑ 2	B. FAVRE, G.B	583
❑ 3	S. YOUNG, S.F	635
❑ 4	J. ELWAY, DEN	472
❑ 5	W. MOON, MIN	521
❑ 6	D. BLEDSOE, N.E	584
❑ 7	J. EVERETT, N.O	498
❑ 8	R. CUNNINGHAM, PHI	446

02 . Quarterbacks

❑ 1	S. HUMPHRIES, S.D	406
❑ 2	C. ERICKSON, T.B	382
❑ 3	V. TESTAVERDE, CLE	350
❑ 4	J. KELLY, BUF	433
❑ 5	J. GEORGE, ATL	494
❑ 6	T. AIKMAN, DAL	343
❑ 7	B. ESIASON, NYJ	368
❑ 8	J. HOSTETLER, RAI	459

03 . Quarterbacks

❑ 1	N. O'DONNELL, PIT	322
❑ 2	J. BLAKE, CIN	310
❑ 3	F. REICH, CAR	61
❑ 4	D. BROWN, NYG	342
❑ 5	A. WARE, JAC	—
❑ 6	R. MIRER, SEA	285
❑ 7	S. WALSH, CHI	262
❑ 8	C. MILLER, STL	300

04 Runningbacks

❑ 1	C. WARREN, SEA	241
❑ 2	B. SANDERS, DET	256
❑ 3	E. SMITH, DAL	292
❑ 4	B. FOSTER, PIT	122
❑ 5	N. MEANS, S. D	218
❑ 6	M. FAULK, IND	240
❑ 7	R. WATTERS, PHI	213
❑ 8	T. THOMAS, BUF	188

05 Runningbacks

❑ 1	B. PARMALEE, MIA	145
❑ 2	R. HAMPTON, NYG	147
❑ 3	L. HOARD, CLE	178
❑ 4	B. MORRIS, PIT	138
❑ 5	G. BROWN, HOU	108
❑ 6	T. ALLEN, MIN	157
❑ 7	J. BETTIS, STL	151
❑ 8	C. HEYWARD, ATL	150

06 ..... Receivers

❑ 1	S. SHARPE, G.B	202
❑ 2	J. RICE, S.F	233
❑ 3	A. REED, BUF	181
❑ 4	T. BROWN, RAI	175
❑ 5	H. MOORE, DET	172
❑ 6	A. RISON, CLE	148
❑ 7	M. IRVIN, DAL	155
❑ 8	T. MATHIS, ATL	189

07 ..... Receivers

❑ 1	A. MILLER, DEN	135
❑ 2	I. FRYAR, MIA	162
❑ 3	A. HARPER, T.B	120
❑ 4	ROB MOORE, NYJ	131
❑ 5	C. CARTER, MIN	160
❑ 6	F. BARNETT, PHI	137
❑ 7	C. PICKENS, CIN	167
❑ 8	H. ELLARD, WAS	169

08 ..... Receivers

❑ 1	B. PERRIMAN, DET	104
❑ 2	B. BLADES, SEA	128
❑ 3	M. TIMPSON, N.E	110
❑ 4	M. SHERRARD, NYG	111
❑ 5	C. WILLIAMS, PHI	97
❑ 6	W. DAVIS, K.C	107
❑ 7	H. JEFFIRES, HOU	108
❑ 8	T. MARTIN, S.D	123

09 ..... Receivers

❑ 1	K. JACKSON, G.B	102
❑ 2	E. GREENE, MIA	81
❑ 3	B. JONES, S.F	112
❑ 4	J. MITCHELL, NYJ	94
❑ 5	B. COATES, N. E	152
❑ 6	J. NOVACEK, DAL	67
❑ 7	SH. SHARPE, DEN	121
❑ 8	J. HARRIS, T.B	48

10 ..... Kickers

❑ 1	C. BONIOL, DAL	114
❑ 2	D. BRIEN, S.F	105
❑ 3	G. ANDERSON, PIT	104
❑ 4	J. JAEGER, RAI	97
❑ 5	J. CARNEY, S.D	135
❑ 6	M. ANDERSEN, N.O	116
❑ 7	F. REVEIZ, MIN	132
❑ 8	J. ELAM, DEN	119

11 ..... Sacks

❑ 1	B. SMITH, BUF	110
❑ 2	J. CROSS, MIA	105
❑ 3	K. GREENE, PIT	140
❑ 4	C. HALEY, DAL	135
❑ 5	L. O'NEAL, S.D	125
❑ 6	R. RANDLE, MIN	135
❑ 7	W. MARTIN, N.O	100
❑ 8	N. SMITH, K.C	125

12 .. Interceptions

❑ 1	D. SANDERS, S.F	90
❑ 2	T. MCDANIEL, RAI	100
❑ 3	E. TURNER, CLE	110
❑ 4	R. BUCHANAN, IND	120
❑ 5	M. HANKS, S.F	75
❑ 6	J. HASTY, NYJ	80
❑ 7	R. WOODSON, PIT	90
❑ 8	M. HURST, N.E	90

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had three interceptions and are expected to play better in their second season with Miami. The Dolphins will search for a third cornerback in training camp.

KICKING GAME

It will be interesting to see how Stoyanovich rebounds from the missed 48-yarder that eliminated Miami from the playoffs. That aside, he has proved a very reliable kicker in the clutch and will be counted on again. Stoyanovich did not have his best year, making only six of 10 attempts from 30-39 yards, but he led Miami in scoring with 107 points.

McDuffie will be the Dolphins' main punt and kickoff returner, with Spikes contributing on kickoff returns. The Dolphins need to find a punter since they weren't too happy with John Kidd's performance late last season.

DOLPHINS ALL-TIME TEAM

Offense

WR	Paul Warfield (1970-74)
TE	Ferrell Edmunds (1988-92)
T	Richmond Webb (1990-)
G	Larry Little (1969-80)
C	Jim Langer (1970-79)
G	Bob Kuechenberg (1970-84)
T	Norm Evans (1966-75)
WR	Mark Clayton (1983-92)
QB	Dan Marino (1983-)
RB	Larry Csonka (1968-74, 1979)
RB	Mercury Morris (1969-75)
K	Garo Yepremian (1970-78)

Defense

DE	Bill Stanfill (1969-76)
DT	Bob Baumhower (1977-86)
DT	Manny Fernandez (1968-75)
DE	Vern Den Herder (1971-81)
LB	Nick Buoniconti (1969-76)
LB	John Offerdahl (1986-93)
LB	Larry Gordon (1976-82)
CB	Tim Foley (1970-80)
S	Dick Anderson (1968-77)
S	Jake Scott (1970-75)
CB	Curtis Johnson (1970-78)
P	Reggie Roby (1983-92)

Special Teams - Jim Jensen (1981-92)

BUILDING A WINNER

Defense again will be this team's Achilles' heel. Miami needs another pass rusher to relieve the pressure on its secondary. Perhaps it will be Cox coming on more blitzes, or perhaps it will be a free agent.

Marino must remain healthy, something at which he usually excels. Kirby or Parmalee will have to establish himself as the No. 1 back. Miami really could use a 1,000-yard rusher to make Marino more effective. The Dolphins haven't had one since Delvin Williams in 1978.■

ROSTER

HEAD COACH: Don Shula (NFL Record: 337-164)
1994 RECORD: 10-6, T1st AFC East

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	EXP.	COLLEGE
92	Armstrong, Trace	DE	6-4	265	6	Florida
28	Atkins, Gene	S	5-11	200	8	Fla. A&M
53	Beavers, Aubrey	LB	6-3	233	1	Oklahoma
95	Bowens, Tim	DT	6-4	317	1	Mississippi
77	Brothen, Kevin	G-C	6-1	284	1	Vanderbilt
92	Broughton, Willie	DT	6-4	284	8	Miami (Fla.)
37	Brown, J.B.	CB	6-0	193	6	Maryland
27	Buckley, Terrell	DB	5-9	174	3	Fla. State
90	Coleman, Marco	DE	6-3	267	3	Ga. Tech
51	Cox, Bryan	LB	6-4	249	4	W. Ill.
91	Cross, Jeff	DE	6-4	281	7	Missouri
57	Foxx, Dion	LB	6-3	254	1	J. Madison
80	Fryar, Irving	WR	6-0	200	11	Nebraska
93	Gaines, William	DT	6-5	306	1	Florida
62	Gray, Chris	G-T	6-4	294	2	Auburn
86	Green, Eric	TE	6-5	280	5	Liberty
73	Heller, Ron	T	6-6	293	11	Penn St.
89	Hill, Randal	WR	5-10	177	4	Miami (Fla.)
31	Hill, Sean	CB	5-10	176	1	M'tana St.
50	Hollier, Dwight	LB	6-2	257	3	N.C.
97	Jackson, Tyoka	DE	6-1	266	1	Penn State
17	Kidd, John	P	6-3	213	11	N'western
99	Klingbeil, Chuck	NT	6-1	301	4	No. Mich.
19	Kosar, Bernie	QB	6-5	215	10	Miami (Fla.)
13	Marino, Dan	QB	6-4	224	12	Pittsburgh
81	McDuffie, O.J.	WR	5-10	191	2	Penn State
83	Miller, Scott	WR	5-11	184	4	UCLA
20	Oliver, Muhammad	CB	5-11	185	3	Oregon
30	Parmalee, Bernie	RB	5-11	205	3	Ball State
61	Ruddy, Tim	C	6-3	286	1	Notre Dame
69	Sims, Keith	G	6-3	303	5	Iowa St.
55	Singleton, Chris	LB	6-2	246	5	Arizona
29	Smith, Frankie	CB	5-9	191	2	Baylor
40	Spikes, Irving	RB	5-8	215	1	NE La.
35	Stewart, Michael	S	5-11	203	8	Fresno St.
10	Stoyanovich, Pete	K	5-11	195	6	Indiana
23	Vincent, Troy	CB	6-0	197	3	Wisconsin
78	Webb, Richmond	T	6-6	302	5	Texas A&M
79	Webster, Larry	DE-DT	6-5	296	3	Maryland
87	Williams, Mike	WR	5-11	190	4	N'eastern
85	Williams, Ronnie	TE	6-3	266	2	Okla. St.
49	Wilson, Robert	FB	6-0	258	2	Texas A&M

1995 DRAFT PICKS

ROUND	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	Milner, Billy	OT	6-8	295	Houton
2	Greene, Andrew	G	6-4	285	Indiana
4	Mitchell, Pete	TE	6-2	238	Boston College
5	Hand, Norman	DT	6-3	310	Mississippi
6	Kopp, Jeff	LB	6-4	235	USC
7	Swinson, Corey	DT	6-6	305	Hampton
7	Myers, Shannon	WR	6-2	180	Lenoir-Ryne

1994 Wrap-up

TEAM DATA

Total Offense:	379.9 yards per game
Total Defense:	326.5 yards per game
Scoring Offense:	24.3 points per game
Scoring Defense:	20.4 points per game

LEADERS

Passing:	Dan Marino, 385-615-4453-17, 30 TDs
Rushing:	Bernie Parmalee, 216 att., 868 yds., 6 TDs
Receiving:	Irving Fryar, 73 rec., 1270 yds., 7 TDs
Kicking:	Pete Stoyanovich, 24-31 FGs, 35-35 XP, 107 points
Punting:	Jim Arnold, 46 punts, 39.3 avg.
Kickoff Returns:	O.J. McDuffie, 36 ret., 21.3 avg.
Punt Returns:	O.J. McDuffie, 32 ret., 7.1 avg.
Tackles:	Bryan Cox, 147, 106 solo
Sacks:	Jeff Cross, 9.5
Interceptions:	Troy Vincent, 5 for 113 yds., 1 TD

RESULTS

New England	39-35	at Pittsburgh (OT)	13-16
at Green Bay	24-14	at N.Y. Jets	28-24
N.Y. Jets	28-14	Buffalo	31-42
at Minnesota	35-38	Kansas City	45-28
at Cincinnati	23- 7	at Indianapolis	6-10
at Buffalo	11-21	Detroit	27-20
L.A. Raiders (OT)	20-17	**Playoffs**	
at New England	23- 3	Kansas City	17-27
Indianapolis	22-21	at San Diego	21-22
Chicago	14-17		

PROJECTED STARTING LINEUP

OFFENSE

80	IRVING FRYAR	WR
78	RICHMOND WEBB	LT
69	KEITH SIMS	LG
61	TIM RUDDY	C
	ANDREW GREENE	RG
73	RON HELLER	RT
82	O.J. McDUFFIE	WR
13	DAN MARINO	QB
41	KEITH BYARS	FB
43	TERRY KIRBY	RB
10	PETE STOYANOVICH	K

DEFENSE

91	JEFF CROSS	DE
95	TIM BOWENS	DT
99	CHUCK KLINGBEIL	NT
90	MARCO COLEMAN	DE
53	AUBREY BEAVERS	OLB
51	BRYAN COX	MLB
50	DWIGHT HOLLIER	OLB
23	TROY VINCENT	CB
37	J.B. BROWN	CB
35	MICHAEL STEWART	SS
28	GENE ATKINS	FS
17	JOHN KIDD	P

Personnel changes made after April 22 may not be reflected.

Information provided by Harvey Greene, Director of Media Relations.

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NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

The New England Patriots have risen like the sun in the AFC East, warming their fans in the glow of Super Bowl contention.

What coach Bill Parcells has accomplished is remarkable, and he is the primary reason the Patriots are legitimate threats to win the conference title outright this year.

New England finished 1994 with seven straight wins, qualifying for the playoffs with a 10–6 record. The season before, Parcells' first, the Patriots ended 5–11. In 1992, the year before Parcells arrived, they had limped to a National Football League-worst 2–14 mark.

The five-win differential between 1993 and 1994 gave the Patriots the most improved record in the NFL. A 20–13 first-round playoff loss to Cleveland dimmed the excitement but did nothing to damage their reputation as a team of the future.

LAYNE MURDOCH

DAVE MEGGETT

And the future may be very near.

The Patriots are led by a Pro Bowl nucleus of three offensive players: quarterback Drew Bledsoe, offensive tackle Bruce Armstrong and tight end Ben Coates. Parcells' gambling instinct is another asset. New England led the league in both fourth-down attempts (35) and conversions (18).

Not content, the Patriots acquired a pair of free-agent talents over the winter, running back-punt returner Dave Meggett of the New York Giants, who signed a five-year contract paying him $10 million, and veteran center Jeff Dellenbach of Miami.

Defense is the Patriots' biggest problem but at least it has gotten somewhat better. It was horrid early in 1994 but improved to a tolerable 18th in the NFL by the end of the season.

The defense, which allowed 473 passing yards to Miami's Dan Marino and 328 to Buffalo's Jim Kelly in the first two weeks, did not permit a touchdown in the second half of the final five games.

The Patriots will no longer be satisfied simply by making the playoffs. They want to go much farther.

"There's more to do now," Parcells says. "This is a new ball game. The level of intensity is going up. The stakes are higher."

The Patriots' success has not gone unnoticed in the New England area. For the first time in franchise history, every home game was sold out prior to the start of the 1994 regular season. That should happen again this year. The Patriots have improved their average attendance 53 percent since the year 1992 B.P. (Before Parcells).

QUARTERBACKS

Bledsoe has emerged as one of the NFL's brightest young stars. Parcells, known for his grind-it-out, plodding New York Giants teams that won two Super Bowls, allows Bledsoe to put the ball in the air regularly.

In only his second season, Bledsoe led the league in attempts (691), completions (400) — both records — and total yards passing (4,555) in 1994. In his best-known game, against Minnesota Nov. 13, Bledsoe threw 70 passes and completed 45 in New England's 26–20 overtime win.

RUNNING BACKS

The running game was not a team strength for the Patriots in 1994. They finished next to last in rushing yardage and last in average yards per carry (2.8). The ground game got a shot in the arm, though, when New England picked up Meggett.

Marion Butts ran for 703 yards but only 2.9 a carry. That closely mirrored the team average of 2.8. It is questionable who will be the featured tailback. Leroy Thompson (312 yards) could have a chance.

Fullback is in better shape. Sam Gash and Kevin Turner split starting duties last season. Turner left for Philadelphia as a free agent. Thompson distinguished himself catching the ball out of the backfield and will be relied on again. Thompson had 65 catches for 465 yards.

RECEIVERS

Coates, New England's tight end, has become Bledsoe's favorite target and made everyone forget about former Patriot All-Pro tight end Marv Cook.

LARRY KINKER

DREW BLEDSOE

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

Coates had 96 catches in 1994, setting a record for tight ends and a team mark for receivers. Bledsoe will look for him again whenever the Patriots need tough yardage. New England's reliance on the passing game helped the receivers rack up impressive numbers, too. The Patriots set an NFL record with five receivers — Coates, Thompson, Turner, Michael Timpson (74) and Vincent Brisby (58) — catching 50 or more passes each. Turner has since left. The up-and-comer in the receiving group may be Ray Crittenden. He begins his third season with more confidence, having caught 28 passes for 379 yards in 1994. Crittenden also is the team's main kick returner.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Armstrong, the Patriots' left tackle, played every offensive snap but one in 1994 and protected Bledsoe's blind side. In almost 700 passing attempts by Bledsoe, Armstrong allowed only one sack.

The rest of the talent in the line drops down a notch. Left guard Bob Kratch played well enough as a starter to make former first-round pick Eugene Chung expendable. Chung went to Jacksonville in the expansion draft.

Dellenbach, who apparently will replace 1994 starter Mike Arthur at center, and right guard Todd Rucci and right tackle Pat Harlow are good pass blockers, but the Patriots must improve their run blocking. Mike Gisler started five games at center and provides good depth. Doug Skene returns from an injury to challenge Rucci.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Right end Mike Jones emerged during his third season, leading the defensive line with six sacks. Jones will be counted on for more, but he must play more consistently.

Nose tackle Tim Goad had started 105 of his last 107 games before breaking his right leg late in the season. But he's the Browns' property now, and free-agent signee Tim Roberts (Houston) is eyeing the spot. Mike Pitts, 34, beat Father Time and started every game at left end. Youngsters Troy Barnett and Sylvester Stanley may show more in their second years. Free agent Ray Agnew was lured by the Giants' four-year, $6 million offer. Reggie White from San Diego, a free-agent signee, may replace him.

LINEBACKERS

The Patriots have standouts in left inside linebacker Vincent Brown and right outside linebacker Chris Slade.

Brown led New England in tackles for the fourth consecutive season with 118 and is looking for No. 5. Slade, who is only 24, has emerged as the Patriots' dominant pass rusher. He racked up 9 1/2 sacks in '94 and was second to Brown with 105 tackles. In his most impressive game, Slade recorded 3 1/2 sacks of quarterback Stan Humphries in New England's 23–17 win over San Diego.

Willie McGinest and Dwayne Sabb will battle for the starting left outside linebacker job; they split time almost evenly. Todd Collins should return from knee surgery to claim the right inside position, although he could face a challenge from Marty Moore.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

The Patriots need to step up their game in the secondary, although they did improve late in the year. Right cornerback Maurice Hurst had a team-leading seven interceptions and should return along with Ricky Reynolds at the other corner. Hurst has a nose for the ball; he also led the Pats with 23 pass deflections.

Rod Smith is gone as the third cornerback — the Carolina Panthers tabbed him as their first pick in the expansion draft — so Vernon Lewis may rate a chance.

Coates Tailored To Fit Bledsoe's Style

Ben Coates, New England's outstanding tight end, is a man of few words and many receptions. He had 96 of them in 1994, when he established himself as the best pass-catching tight end in the National Football League.

Coates' reception total was the highest ever for an NFL tight end, surpassing Todd Christensen's old mark of 95 he set with the Los Angeles Raiders in 1986.

Coates became the man Drew Bledsoe looked for throughout the 1994 season whenever the Patriots got in trouble.

"Any quarterback would be stupid not to try and get the ball in his hands," Bledsoe says. "As far as I'm concerned, he's the best in the game."

New England obtained Coates in the draft's fifth round in 1991. After a couple of seasons, he had unseated Pro Bowl tight end Marv Cook and had become the starter. Coach Bill Parcells liked Coates' size (6–5, 245) and the fact that he was a good blocker besides being an excellent receiver.

Although Coates caught 53 passes in 1993, many in the league weren't fully aware of him until his record-breaking season. After he burned Buffalo with nine catches for 124 yards and two touchdowns in the second game, Bills running back Thurman Thomas said, "I don't know where he came from, but you can send him to Hawaii."

Even Parcells didn't know New England's offense would end up relying so much on Coates. By the end of the season, Parcells occasionally was calling him "Ditka" in practice. That was a reference to Mike Ditka, who, according to Parcells, was perhaps the best tight end ever.

"I don't think he (Coates) liked it," Parcells says. "But that's a compliment from me."

BEN COATES

LARRY KINKER

Free safety should be set with Myron Guyton, who was third on the team in tackles with 81. Harlon Barnett won't be the strong safety again, having signed with Minnesota.

KICKING GAME

Matt Bahr turns 39 in July, but he keeps holding on to the kicking job. Bahr hit 27–of–34 field-goal attempts in '94. Entering his 17th year in the league, Bahr needs only 74 points to break the 1,400-point mark for his career. Pat O'Neill, a rookie in '94, returns as the punter.

BUILDING A WINNER

The Patriots have a strong offensive nucleus, but they could use more defensive line depth. They must also run the ball better. A 2.8-yard team rushing average just doesn't cut it in the upper echelon of the league. That was apparent in the playoff loss to Cleveland, when New England basically had to give up on the run and force Bledsoe to pass 50 times.

Many teams this season will do exactly what Cleveland did in that game: sit back in a deep zone and wait for Bledsoe to make a mistake. It worked that day as Bledsoe threw three interceptions. Establishing a running game would make Bledsoe even more effective and push the Patriots closer to their Super desires.■

PATRIOTS ALL-TIME TEAM

Offense

WR	Stanley Morgan (1977-89)
TE	Russ Francis (1975-80, 1987-88)
T	Brian Holloway (1981-86)
G	John Hannah (1973-85)
C	Jon Morris (1964-74)
G	Sam Adams (1972-80)
T	Tom Neville (1965-1977)
WR	Irving Fryar (1984-92)
QB	Babe Parilli (1961-67)
RB	Sam Cunningham (1973-79, 1981-82)
RB	Jim Nance (1965-71)
K	Gino Cappelletti (1960-70)

Defense

DE	Julius Adams (1971-77, 1979-85, 1987)
DT	Houston Antwine (1961-71)
DT	Jim Lee Hunt (1961-71)
DE	Larry Eisenhauer (1962-69)
LB	Andre Tippett (1982-88, 1990-93)
LB	Nick Buoniconti (1962-68)
LB	Steve Nelson (1974-87)
CB	Raymond Clayborn (1977-89)
SS	Ron Hall (1961-67)
FS	Fred Marion (1982-91)
CB	Mike Haynes (1976-82)
P	Rich Camarillo (1981-87)

Special Teams - Mosi Tatupu (1978-90)

ROSTER

HEAD COACH: Bill Parcells (NFL Record: 100–70–1)
1994 RECORD: 10-6, T 1st AFC East

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	EXP.	COLLEGE
50	Abrams, Bobby	LB	6–3	230	5	Michigan
78	Armstrong, Bruce	T	6–4	284	8	Louisville
65	Arthur, Mike	C	6–3	280	4	Texas A&M
3	Bahr, Matt	K	5–10	175	16	Penn St.
98	Barnett, Troy	DE	6–4	280	1	N.C.
11	Bledsoe, Drew	QB	6–5	233	2	Wash. St.
51	Bowden, Andre	LB	6–3	240	1	Fay'ville St.
82	Brisby, Vincent	WR	6–2	188	2	NE La.
30	Brown, Corwin	FS	6–1	200	2	Michigan
86	Brown, Troy	WR	5–9	190	2	Marshall
59	Brown, Vincent	LB	6–2	245	7	Miss. V. St.
85	Burke, John	TE	6–3	255	1	Va. Tech
44	Butts, Marion	RB	6–1	248	6	Fla. State
87	Coates, Ben	TE	6–5	245	4	Livingstone
54	Collins, Todd	LB	6–2	242	3	C. Newman
81	Crittenden, Ray	WR	6–1	188	2	Va. Tech
26	Croom, Corey	RB	5–11	208	2	Ball State
64	Dellenbach, Jeff	C	6–5	297	11	Wisconsin
99	DeOssie, Steve	LB	6–2	248	11	Bost. Coll.
84	Ellis, Elbert	WR	6–5	216	1	Pittsburgh
88	Francisco, Paul	TE	6–6	236	1	Boston U.
33	Gash, Sam	FB	5–11	224	3	Penn St.
67	Gisler, Mike	G-C	6–4	300	2	Houston
29	Guyton, Myron	FS	6–1	205	6	E. Kentucky
90	Hand, Jon	DE	6–7	301	9	Alabama
77	Harlow, Pat	T	6–6	290	4	USC
37	Hurst, Maurice	CB	5–10	185	6	Southern
97	Jones, Aaron	DE	6–5	267	7	E. Kentucky
96	Jones, Mike	DE	6–4	295	4	N.C. State
61	Kratch, Bob	G	6–3	288	6	Iowa
68	Lane, Max	T	6–6	295	1	Navy
19	Lee, Kevin	WR	6–1	194	1	Alabama
35	Legette, Burnie	FB	6–1	243	2	Michigan
43	Lewis, Vernon	CB	5–10	192	2	Pittsburgh
55	McGinest, Willie	LB	6–5	252	1	USC
22	Meggett, Dave	RB	5–7	195	6	Towson St.
70	Moore, Brandon	T	6–6	295	2	Duke
58	Moore, Marty	LB	6–1	244	1	Kentucky
5	O'Neill, Pat	P-PK	6–1	200	1	Syracuse
93	Pitts, Mike	DE	6–5	277	12	Alabama
23	Ray, Terry	SS	6–1	205	3	Oklahoma
21	Reynolds, Ricky	CB	5–11	190	8	Wash. St.
94	Roberts, Tim	DL	6–6	318	3	So. Miss.
71	Rucci, Todd	G	6–5	291	2	Penn St.
95	Sabb, Dwayne	LB	6–4	248	3	New Ham.
74	Skene, Doug	G	6–6	295	2	Michigan
53	Slade, Chris	LB	6–4	232	2	Virginia
63	Stanley, Sylvester	NT	6–2	286	1	Michigan
36	Thompson, Leroy	RB	5–11	216	4	Penn St.
91	Walker, Bruce	DE	6–4	325	1	UCLA
7	Walker, Jay	QB	6–3	232	1	Howard
25	Whigham, Larry	FS	6–2	202	1	NE La.
	White, Reggie	DT	6–4	300	3	N.C. A&T
27	Wren, Darryl	CB	6–1	188	4	Pitt. St.
16	Zolak, Scott	QB	6–5	222	4	Maryland

1995 DRAFT PICKS

ROUND	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	Law, Ty	CB	6-0	201	Michigan
2	Johnson, Ted	LB	6-3	240	Colorado
3	Martin, Curtis	RB	5-11	197	Pittsburgh
3	Hitchcock, Jimmy	CB	5-10	188	N.C.
4	Wohlabaugh, Dave	C-G	6-3	304	Syracuse
6	Philyaw, Dino	HB	5-10	192	Oregon
7	Yancy, Carlos	CB	6-2	190	Georgia

1994 WRAP-UP

TEAM DATA

Total Offense:	361.0 yards per game
Total Defense:	325.4 yards per game
Scoring Offense:	21.9 points per game
Scoring Defense:	19.5 points per game

LEADERS

Passing:	Drew Bledsoe, 400–691–4555–27, 25 TDs
Rushing:	Marion Butts, 243 att., 703 yds., 8 TDs
Receiving:	Ben Coates, 96 rec., 1174 yds., 7 TDs
Kicking:	Matt Bahr, 27–34 FGs, 36–36 XP, 117 points
Punting:	Pat O'Neill, 69 punts, 41.2 avg.
Kickoff Returns:	Leroy Thompson, 18 ret., 20.9 avg.
Punt Returns:	Troy Brown, 24 ret., 8.4 avg.
Tackles:	Vincent Brown, 118, 82 solo
Sacks:	Chris Slade, 9.5
Interceptions:	Maurice Hurst, 7 for 68 yards

RESULTS

at Miami	35–39	Minnesota (OT)	26–20
Buffalo	35–38	San Diego	23–17
at Cincinnati	31–28	at Indianapolis	12–10
at Detroit	23–17	N.Y. Jets	24–13
Green Bay	17–16	Indianapolis	28–18
L.A. Raiders	17–21	at Buffalo	41–17
at N.Y. Jets	17–24	at Chicago	13– 3
Miami	3–23	**Playoffs**	
at Cleveland	6–13	at Cleveland	13–20

PROJECTED STARTING LINEUP

OFFENSE

82	VINCENT BRISBY	WR
78	BRUCE ARMSTRONG	LT
61	BOB KRATCH	LG
64	JEFF DELLENBACH	C
71	TODD RUCCI	RG
77	PAT HARLOW	RT
87	BEN COATES	TE
81	RAY CRITTENDEN	WR
11	DREW BLEDSOE	QB
33	SAM GASH	FB
44	MARION BUTTS	RB
3	MATT BAHR	K

DEFENSE

93	MIKE PITTS	DE
94	TIM ROBERTS	NT
96	MIKE JONES	DE
55	WILLIE MCGINEST	LOLB
59	VINCENT BROWN	LILB
54	TODD COLLINS	RILB
53	CHRIS SLADE	ROLB
21	RICKY REYNOLDS	LCB
37	MAURICE HURST	RCB
23	TERRY RAY	SS
29	MYRON GUYTON	FS
5	PAT O'NEILL	P

Personnel changes made after April 22 may not be reflected.

Information provided by Don Lowery, Director of Public and Community Relations.

INDIANAPOLIS

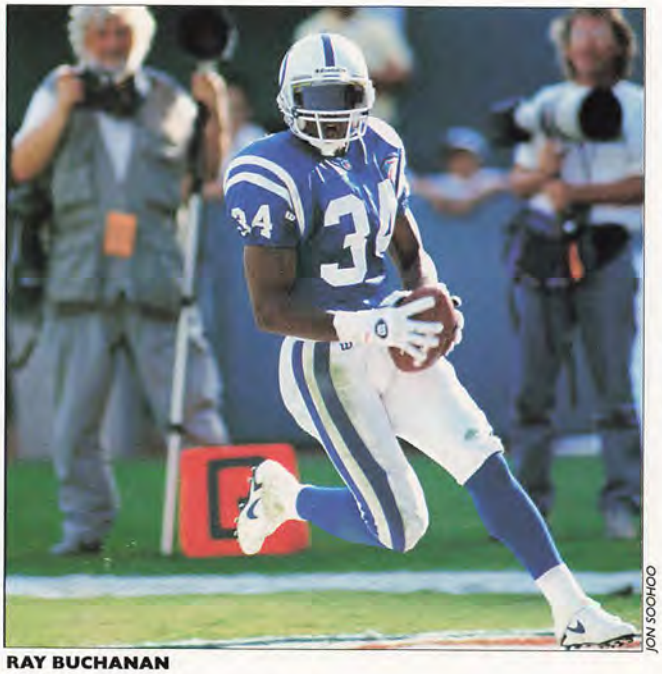
COLTS

It's hard to believe. But the Indianapolis Colts, a team as bland as vanilla through most of the 1990s, have actually become exciting.

Much of that is due to running back Marshall Faulk, who electrified the state of Indiana by rushing for 1,282 yards and scoring 12 touchdowns in his rookie season.

But there is more to the Colts than the new Marshall in town. The team boasted six scoring plays of 75 or more yards in 1994 and three of 85 or more yards. Cornerback Ray Buchanan intercepted a pass in five straight games, besting a 36-year-old club record, and scored three touchdowns.

The record was the only thing that was still bland — a thoroughly average 8–8, good for third place in the AFC East. The Colts were good at beating the teams they should but not very good at pulling upsets, going only 1–5 against 1994 playoff teams.



JON SOOHOO

RAY BUCHANAN

That may change this season, however. The Colts made relatively few off-season changes compared to many NFL teams, content that they have already planted the seeds to become a playoff team and now simply must water them and watch them sprout.

Indianapolis coach Ted Marchibroda plans to employ much the same philosophy as last season: get the ball to Faulk frequently and try to play stout defense.

QUARTERBACKS

The Colts struggled here for most of the 1994 season, as Marchibroda kept switching back and forth between Jim Harbaugh and Don Majkowski at the starting position.

With Majkowski gone to Detroit via free agency, Harbaugh will be the man this season. Certainly, his statistics seem to show that he deserves the chance.

Playing slightly more than half the time, Harbaugh set a Colts single-season completion percentage record at 61.9. He threw nine touchdown passes and six interceptions, and several of the interceptions were desperation Hail Mary tosses at the end of the half or the game.

Harbaugh doesn't get you beat. Then again, he doesn't win many games for you, either. Harbaugh is not very good at making the spectacular, game-winning play, but he is fairly efficient.

Browning Nagle, who started one game last season, figures into the mix as Harbaugh's backup.

RUNNING BACKS

Faulk, Faulk, Faulk. The Colts will gear their offense around him again this season and hope he doesn't suffer from the sophomore jinx. Teams took advantage of the Colts' weak passing attack late last season and ganged up on Faulk, who had only one game with more than 85 rushing yards in his last seven.

If the quarterbacks do their job this season, Faulk should have a little more room to run. When he needs a breather, the Colts will probably go to Lamont Warren, who was also a rookie in 1994 and played well in relief of Faulk.

Starting fullback Roosevelt Potts had a solid season in '94 (336 yards rushing, 251 yards receiving) and is also valuable as a blocker for Faulk.

RECEIVERS

This was one of the Colts' biggest problem areas last year. They couldn't place a single receiver in the AFC's top 20 in number of receptions. They were led by Floyd Turner and Faulk, who both had 52 catches. Sean Dawkins, who is supposed to be the Colts' go-to receiver, caught only 51 balls and was plagued by inconsistency.

Help could come from free-agent Flipper Anderson, former Los Angeles Rams receiver who signed for $8.5 million over five years. Anderson, a seven-year veteran, has 5,246 career yards after totaling 945 on 46 receptions last season.

Dawkins, who will start again this season, has gotten a feast-or-famine reputation. One game he is great, the next he drops a couple of passes and does little. He has the potential to have four or five 100-yard receiving

DAVID STLUKA

MARSHALL FAULK

28

games per year; in 1994, he had only one.

Turner will likely be relegated to backup duties.

The Colts signed tight end Ed West from Green Bay. He replaces Kerry Cash who signed with the Los Angeles Raiders.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Colts are relatively strong here. Left tackle Will Wolford and center Kirk Lowdermilk, free-agent signings from 1993, have solidified the line.

The left guard is Randy Dixon and the right guard is Joe Staysniak, respectable players who won't embarrass you much.

Right tackle could be a sore spot. Eric Mahlum, who started two games at right guard last season, may step in to a starting role if Zefross Moss or Randy Dixon leaves through free agency. The Colts will probably run Faulk mostly to the left side, behind Wolford. Cecil Gray may be a factor at right tackle.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Colts need to get to the passer more often to improve a defense that was rated 20th overall in the NFL. Right end Tony Bennett could help. Bennett easily led the Colts with nine sacks in '94 and will be expected to hit double digits in sacks this season.

Indianapolis certainly could benefit from the return of oft-injured defensive tackle Steve Emtman. In three years, Emtman has played only a total of 18 games because of knee and neck injuries. If his knees hold up, he may grab a starting inside defensive tackle job over Tony Siragusa.

The Colts have high hopes for Tony McCoy, another defensive tackle. He had a big year in 1994, finishing second on the team with six sacks.

The left end spot may be patrolled by Bernard Whittington, who didn't have a sack last season and needs to gain some weight. Help should come from No. 1 pick Ellis Johnson out of Florida. Jon Hand was cut after last season and signed with New England.

LINEBACKERS

One of the best stories on the Colts defense last season was left linebacker Stephen Grant, who came out of nowhere to finish second on the team in tackles with 161. Although middle linebacker Jeff Herrod led Indianapolis in total tackles with 200, Grant's contribution may have been even larger since he surpassed Herrod in causing turnovers and became known as a player with a great nose for the ball.

Both, along with right linebacker Quentin Coryatt, should be back to start.

Trev Alberts, whose rookie season was decimated by an elbow injury, may push for a starting outside linebacker job. Alberts was the fifth overall draft pick in 1994 and could bolster the position.

Faulk Unchanged Except He Drives Better Cars

Marshall Faulk claims he is exactly the same man he was before he signed a seven-year, $17.1 million contract with Indianapolis, before he ran for 1,282 yards in his rookie season and before he became Pro Bowl MVP after rushing for 180 yards in that game.

"I'm the same old person," Faulk says. "I just drive better cars, that's all."

The Colts don't mind financing a few luxury cars for Faulk after what he did as a rookie. Faulk burst onto the NFL scene with 100-yard plus games in each of his first two games. It was reminiscent of his college days at San Diego State. In his second game as a freshman, he came off the bench to score seven touchdowns and rush for 386 yards.

Faulk was the Colts' offense in 1994. The team hopes to provide him with some more help this season. It's probably not a good thing, for instance, for Faulk to tie for the team reception lead with 52 as well as carry the ball 64 percent of the time. But he isn't getting tired. The first five or 10 carries of each game are "only a warmup for me," he says.

Indianapolis will keep feeding him the ball, of course. From 1990-93, the Colts ranked 27th, 28th, 28th and 28th in the NFL in rushing. Last season, they were fourth, thanks to Faulk.

Watch Faulk this season when he scores a touchdown, and you'll see that he conscientiously carries the ball to the sideline each time. "I plan to keep the ball after every touchdown," he says, "only because you never know how many TDs you're going to score and you want to value each one of them."

Faulk sends the balls home to his mom, who was solely responsible for raising him after his father died when Faulk was 15.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Buchanan was far and away the Colts' star here and will be hard-pressed to match his eight-interception total in 1995. He will be the left cornerback. Buchanan had seven interceptions in the final six games.

At right corner, Eugene Daniel is a competent veteran. The third corner, Ashley Ambrose, has not performed that well but will try again. He may also be utilized on punt returns.

The safeties are David Tate and Jason Belser. Both need to increase their pickoff totals. Tate had three last season and Belser just one.

SEAN DAWKINS

MITCHELL HADDAD

KICKING GAME

The Colts got rid of punter Rohn Stark, the last remaining Colt who had played for the team when it was still located in Baltimore. Stark, the fifth-leading punter in NFL history with a 43.8-yard career average, will be replaced by Chris Gardocki, a free-agent signee from the Chicago Bears.

Indianpolis made this somewhat puzzling move, even giving Gardocki a $650,000 signing bonus on top of his four-year, $2.25 million deal, despite the fact that Gardocki finished last in the NFL last season in both gross yards (37.8) and net (32.4).

The placekicker, Dean Biasucci, is expected to leave via free agency. If he stays, Biasucci will need a good training camp to keep his job, though — he connected on only three of seven attempts from 30-39 yards last season. Biasucci will be challenged by Mike Cofer, former 49er kicker who was out of football last year.

COLTS ALL-TIME TEAM

Offense

WR	Raymond Berry (1955-67)
TE	John Mackey (1963-71)
T	Jim Parker (1957-67)
G	Chris Hinton (1983-89)
C	Ray Donaldson (1980-92)
G	Alex Sandusky (1954-66)
T	Bob Vogel (1963-72)
WR	Jimmy Orr (1961-70)
QB	Johnny Unitas (1956-72)
RB	Lydell Mitchell (1972-77)
RB	Lenny Moore (1956-67)
K	Dean Biasucci (1984, 1986-)

Defense

DE	Gino Marchetti (1953-64, 1966)
DT	Art Donovan (1953-61)
DT	Gene Lipscomb (1956-60)
DE	Bubba Smith (1967-71)
LB	Ted Hendricks (1969-73)
LB	Mike Curtis (1965-75)
LB	Don Shinnick (1957-68)
CB	Bobby Boyd (1960-68)
S	Rick Volk (1967-75)
S	Jerry Logan (1963-72)
CB	Bert Rechichar (1953-59)
P	Rohn Stark (1982-94)

Special Teams - Clarence Verdin (1988-93)

BUILDING A WINNER

The Colts need to improve their passing game to keep teams from simply watching where Faulk goes and then meeting him there with four defenders. Harbaugh must find a receiver to click with when the pressure is on.

Indianapolis also needs to get to opposing passers more often. If the Colts can do those things, they should make the playoffs for the first time since 1987.■

ROSTER

HEAD COACH: Ted Marchibroda (NFL Record: 62–63)
1994 RECORD: 8–8, 3rd AFC East

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	EXP.	COLLEGE
51	Alberts, Trev	LB	6–4	243	1	Nebraska
33	Ambrose, Ashley	DB	5–10	185	3	Miss. V. St.
85	Anderson, Willie	WR	6–0	175	7	UCLA
81	Arbuckle, Charles	TE	6–3	248	4	UCLA
80	Bailey, Aaron	WR	5–10	184	1	Louisville
83	Banta, Bradford	TE	6–6	255	1	USC
29	Belser, Jason	DB	5–9	187	3	Oklahoma
56	Bennett, Tony	LB	6–2	243	5	Mississippi
34	Buchanan, Ray	DB	5–9	193	2	Louisville
6	Cofer, Mike	K	6–1	195	7	N.C. State
55	Coryatt, Quentin	LB	6–3	250	3	Texas A&M
39	Covington, John	DB	6–0	198	1	Notre Dame
38	Daniel, Eugene	DB	5–11	188	11	LSU
87	Dawkins, Sean	WR	6–4	210	2	California
69	Dixon, Randy	OG	6–3	305	8	Pittsburgh
90	Emtman, Steve	DT	6–4	300	3	Washington
28	Faulk, Marshall	RB	5–10	200	1	S. Diego St.
17	Gardocki, Chris	P	6–1	196	4	Clemson
59	Grant, Stephen	LB	6–0	242	3	W. Va.
30	Gray, Derwin	DB	5–11	198	2	BYU
12	Harbaugh, Jim	QB	6–3	215	8	Michigan
54	Herrod, Jeff	LB	6–0	249	7	Mississippi
25	Humphrey, Ronald	RB	5–10	211	1	Miss. V. St.
23	Humphries, Leonard	DB	5–9	180	1	Penn St.
63	Lowdermilk, Kirk	C	6–4	280	10	Ohio State
65	Mahlum, Eric	OG	6–4	285	1	California
74	Mathews, Jason	OT	6–5	284	1	Texas A&M
61	McCoy, Tony	DT	6–0	279	3	Florida
57	McDonald, Devon	LB	6–4	248	2	Notre Dame
18	Nagle, Browning	QB	6–3	225	4	Louisville
42	Potts, Roosevelt	RB	6–0	245	2	NE La.
52	Ratigan, Brian	LB	6–4	241	1	Notre Dame
98	Siragusa, Tony	DT	6–3	315	5	Pittsburgh
86	Stablein, Brian	WR	6–1	191	1	Ohio State
79	Staysniak, Joe	OG	6–4	302	4	Ohio State
49	Tate, David	DB	6–1	200	7	Colorado
85	Turner, Floyd	WR	5–11	198	6	NW La.
71	Vickers, Kipp	OL	6–2	288	1	Miami (Fla.)
21	Warren, Lamont	RB	5–11	194	1	Colorado
36	Watts, Damon	DB	5–10	173	1	Indiana
84	West, Ed	TE	6–1	250	11	Auburn
95	Whittington, Bernard	DE	6–6	257	1	Indiana
67	Wolford, Will	OT	6–5	300	9	Vanderbilt

1995 DRAFT PICKS

ROUND	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	Johnson, Ellis	DT	6–3	283	Florida
2	Dilger, Ken	TE	6–5	253	Illinois
3	Crockett, Zack	FB	6–2	245	Fla. State
4	McElroy, Ray	DB	6–1	190	Eastern Ill.
5	West, Derek	OT	6–8	285	Colorado
6	Gelzheiser, Brian	LB	6–1	235	Penn St.
7	Cox, Jessie	LB	6–2	245	Texas So..

1994 WRAP-UP

TEAM DATA

Total Offense:	275.8 yards per game
Total Defense:	332.8 yards per game
Scoring Offense:	19.2 points per game
Scoring Defense:	20 points per game

LEADERS

Passing:	Jim Harbaugh, 125–202–1440–6, 9 TDs
Rushing:	Marshall Faulk, 314 att., 1282 yds., 11 TDs
Receiving:	Sean Dawkins, 51 rec., 742 yds., 5 TDs
Kicking:	Dean Biasucci, 16–24 FGs, 37–37 XP, 85 points
Punting:	Rohn Stark, 73 punts, 42.4 avg.
Kickoff Returns:	Ronald Humphrey, 35 ret., 22.4 avg., 1 TD
Punt Returns:	Dewell Brewer, 42 ret., 8.1 avg., 1 TD
Tackles:	Jeff Herrod, 200, 94 solo
Sacks:	Tony Bennett, 9
Interceptions:	Ray Buchanan, 8 for 221 yds., 3 TDs

RESULTS

Houston	45–21	N.Y. Jets	28–25
at Tampa Bay	10–24	at Miami	21–22
at Pittsburgh	21–31	at Cincinnati	17–13
Cleveland	14–21	New England	10–12
Seattle	17–15	at Seattle	31–19
at N.Y. Jets	6–16	at New England	13–28
at Buffalo	27–17	Miami	10– 6
Washington	27–41	Buffalo	10– 9

PROJECTED STARTING LINEUP

OFFENSE

87	SEAN DAWKINS	WR
67	WILL WOLFORD	LT
69	RANDY DIXON	LG
63	KIRK LOWDERMILK	C
79	JOE STAYSNIACK	RG
74	JASON MATHEWS	RT
84	ED WEST	TE
85	WILLIE ANDERSON	WR
	CRAIG ERICKSON	QB
42	ROOSEVELT POTTS	RB
28	MARSHALL FAULK	RB
6	MIKE COFER	K

DEFENSE

	ELLIS JOHNSON	LE
61	TONY McCOY	LT
98	TONY SIRAGUSA	RT
56	TONY BENNETT	RE
59	STEPHEN GRANT	LLB
54	JEFF HERROD	MLB
55	QUENTIN CORYATT	RLB
34	RAY BUCHANAN	LCB
38	EUGENE DANIEL	RCB
49	DAVID TATE	SS
29	JASON BELSER	FS
	CHRIS GARDOCKI	P

Personnel changes made after April 22 may not be reflected.

Information provided by Craig Kelley, Director of Public Relations.

BUFFALO

BILLS

It seemed strange in January to see a Super Bowl that didn't include the Buffalo Bills playing the dual role of AFC champion/NFC punching bag.

But the Bills, who owned the AFC for the early part of the decade, lost their hold on the conference in 1994. After four years at the top of the AFC, they tumbled back into the middle of the pack by losing their final three games and finishing 7–9.

If you are a football fan at all, you're familiar with the team's unchanging nucleus. Coach Marv Levy, quarterback Jim Kelly, defensive end Bruce Smith, running back Thurman Thomas, wide receiver Andre Reed and linebacker Cornelius Bennett all return, playing the same roles.

STEVE WOLTMANN

ANDRE REED

That, of course, could be part of the problem. When the season begins in September, Kelly will be 35, Smith 32, Thomas 29, Reed 31 and Bennett 30.

Buffalo needs a better defense. The Bills finished 17th in overall defense in the National Football League last season and 23rd against the pass.

In charge of improving that unit is Wade Phillips, former Denver head coach. Phillips, fired by the Broncos after the 1994 season, replaces Walt Corey as defensive coordinator. Corey was dismissed by Levy after the Bills' defense closed out the '94 campaign with 19 fewer takeaways than the season before.

QUARTERBACKS

Kelly comes off significant knee surgery to lead the offense again. He had a lateral collateral ligament repaired in January and is supposed to be ready by training camp.

He is a tough player but also one that has had several serious injuries. Kelly missed the final two games last year, which the Bills lost, thus ensuring that they wouldn't make the playoffs.

Kelly's 22 touchdown passes in '94 offer some hope, and he still stands as a dangerous package when combined with wide receiver Reed.

The Bills badly need a steadying force at backup quarterback. Seldom-used Rick Strom will get first crack as Kelly's replacement. Frank Reich, Kelly's longtime backup, exited via free agency and is now a Carolina Cougar.

First-round draft pick Todd Collins from Michigan also will figure into the equation.

RUNNING BACKS

The good news is that Thomas goes for his seventh straight 1,000-yard plus rushing season in 1995. The bad news is that Thomas' total of 1,093 rushing yards in 1994 was easily the least he has gained in a season since 1988.

The Bills are worried that Thomas' skills are slowly deteriorating, but he still is in the upper echelon of NFL running backs. His ability to catch the ball (50 receptions last season) makes him doubly threatening to opposing defenses.

Thomas may have a new primary backup this season. That would be Yonel Jourdain, who has shown flashes of solid play.

At fullback, former Nebraska star Nate Turner will battle Carwell Gardner, who was re-signed in the off-season, for playing time.

RECEIVERS

Reed had the best year of any Bills offensive player, hauling in a team-record 90 receptions for 1,303 yards. Reed also led the team in touchdowns with eight and returns firmly established as Buffalo's go-to receiver.

The rest of the receiving corps takes a significant dip. No other Bills receiver was within 40 catches of Reed's total in 1994. Buffalo may have to rely on a pair of youngsters, Russell Copeland and Bucky Brooks, to upgrade the position. Copeland is a little more experienced, having caught 21 passes last season.

Don Beebe may return, but it's likely he'll move on via free agency. Bill Brooks had 42 catches, but he is 30 and may be waived to make room under the salary cap.

At tight end, the Bills may have to go with inexperienced Lonnie Johnson since Pete Metzelaars joined Reich in Carolina.

STEVE WOLTMANN

78
BORTZ
62

BUFFALO BILLS

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

This could be a trouble spot. The Bills will need a better performance from their current players, starting with left tackle John Fina. He had a great 1993 season but was average last year, missing four games with a knee injury and not playing as effectively when he returned.

At left guard, Corbin Lacina emerged as a starter but broke his foot and missed the final five games. He probably will return as the starter.

Kent Hull is still the center and a welcome rock of stability on this team. Last year's starting right, John Davis, is gone. Buffalo waived him and will likely replace him with Ruben Brown.

Glenn Parker moved from left guard to right tackle to fill a need and probably will remain there this season. The Bills will be looking for quality backups at this position.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Phillips wasted no time in bringing in Ted Washington to anchor the middle of the defensive line. Washington, a 315-pounder, should be able to hold his ground better on running plays than the undersized but big-hearted Jeff Wright did.

The Bills also signed Jim Jeffcoat, who won't start but will come in on passing downs. Jeffcoat played 12 seasons in Dallas and is the Cowboys' all-time sack leader with 94½. "This is an opportunity for me to come in and help Bruce Smith out from double- and triple-teams," Jeffcoat said when he signed.

That's exactly what happened in 1994. Smith, about the only consistent pass rusher Buffalo had, managed a team-high 10 sacks despite constant double-teams. He returns as the starting right end.

Phil Hansen, starting at the other end, will need to improve on his 5½-sack total of a year ago.

LINEBACKERS

Cornelius Bennett is the marquee name here. Phillips says he will utilize Bennett more frequently on blitzes and keep him in pass coverage more in 1995. That should help Bennett, the starter at left outside linebacker, improve on the five sacks he had last season.

Buffalo suffered a loss through free agency when Darryl Talley left for Atlanta. The Bills signed former Green Bay Pro Bowl linebacker Bryce Paup to replace Talley. Paup's presence will give opposing offenses another pass-rushing threat to worry about.

Inside linebacker Marvcus Patton went to greener pastures in Washington. He was second on the team in tackles with 102 in '94. Buffalo will have to see if youngster Marlo Perry can do the job on the left inside. Mark Maddox is the right inside linebacker and would switch to middle linebacker should Phillips opt to go with a 4–3 scheme full time.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Henry Jones is one of the better strong safeties in the league and the best player in Buffalo's defensive backfield. Jones can cover wide receivers well when necessary, but he needs to improve his two-interception total of a year ago.

Free safety Matt Darby saw numerous passes caught in front of him, as he often

Bruce Believes Bills Will Be Back

Know what happens if you tell Bruce Smith that Buffalo can't cut it any more?

Bad things, man.

The Bills' defensive end still believes in the team he helped lead to four straight Super Bowls in the early 1990s. And, entering his 11th year in the NFL, Smith still ranks as one of the most dominant defensive players in the league. Although he had some lingering shoulder problems last season, Smith is expected to be back at full strength in 1995.

Says Phil Hansen, who plays left defensive end to Smith's right for the Bills: "People say to me, 'Why don't you do what Bruce Smith does?' Believe me, I would if I could."

Smith had 10 sacks in '94, leading the team in that category again, despite the fact that Buffalo generated little pass rush from anywhere else.

Even as the Bills' fortunes sank, Smith's profile rose even higher nationally. That was due in part to a nationally televised commercial in which Dennis Hopper plays a nutty referee who sneaks into the locker room to cradle Smith's shoe. "You know what Bruce would do to me if he found me with his shoe?" Hopper asked. "Bad things, man. Bad things."

Smith, who will be 32 when the season begins, has 116 career sacks. At 6–4, 273, he is praised for both his speed and strength. His toned body is a far cry from where it was after his rookie season in 1985, when he ballooned up to 305 pounds from a diet that included occasional 100-chicken wing dinners.

"The main thing that separates him is his great, great quickness," Washington coach Norv Turner says. "He can be going one way and change direction quicker than any man his size I've ever seen."

"I think offensive linemen shake in their pants when they have to go against Bruce Smith," Buffalo linebacker Mark Maddox adds.

Someone who doesn't shake at all when he sees Smith is his son, Alston, a toddler who Smith says has made him "much more patient and tolerant."

Unfortunately for opposing linemen, those characteristics don't carry over to the football field.

JIM KELLY

STEVE WOLTMANN

seemed to drop too deep in his first year as a starter. Darby did lead the Bills with four pick-offs, however, and should be better in 1995.

Left cornerback Mickey Washington left for Jacksonville, which leaves the job open for second-year pro Jeff Burris. Right corner Thomas Smith is a wonderful talent, but had trouble mirroring receivers' moves.

KICKING GAME

Kicker Steve Christie will probably win a couple of games for Buffalo this season. He has one of the strongest legs in the NFL. Punter Chris Mohr has an average leg but understands the winds that swirl in Rich Stadium well enough to be effective.

Jourdain will be the team's kickoff returner. His 22.3-yard average of last season should go up in '95. Burris returns punts and had a solid 10.4 average a year ago. Special-teams demon Steve Tasker will help out wherever he can.

BUILDING A WINNER

The Bills need to squeeze at least one more good year out of their aging stars while simultaneously preparing for the future.

Wade Phillips also needs to make good on his promise to field a more attacking defense. The Bills, with the exception of Bruce Smith, were often too passive in 1994. At least one member of the secondary needs to step up with a half-dozen interceptions. ■

BILLS ALL-TIME TEAM

Offense

WR	Elbert Dubenion (1960-67)
TE	Pete Metzelaars (1985-94)
T	Howard "House" Ballard (1988-93)
G	Joe DeLamielleure (1973-79, 1985)
C	Kent Hull (1986-)
G	Reggie McKenzie (1972-82)
T	Will Wolford (1986-92)
WR	Andre Reed (1985-)
QB	Jim Kelly (1986-)
RB	O.J. Simpson (1969-77)
RB	Thurman Thomas (1988-)
K	Scott Norwood (1985-91)

Defense

DE	Bruce Smith (1985-)
DT	Tom Sestak (1962-68)
DT	Fred Smerlas (1979-89)
DE	Ben Williams (1976-85)
LB	Cornelius Bennett (1987-)
LB	Darryl Talley (1983-)
LB	Shane Conlan (1987-92)
CB	Butch Byrd (1964-70)
S	Tony Greene (1971-79)
S	Mark Kelso (1986-)
CB	Robert James (1969-74)
P	Paul Maguire (1964-70)

Special Teams - Steve Tasker (1986-)

ROSTER

HEAD COACH: Marv Levy (NFL Record: 127-96)
1994 RECORD: 7-9, 4th AFC East

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	EXP.	COLLEGE
97	Bennett, Cornelius	LB	6-2	238	8	Alabama
80	Brooks, Bill	WR	6-0	189	9	Boston U.
81	Brooks, Bucky	WR	6-0	190	1	N.C.
96	Brown, Monty	LB	6-0	228	2	Ferris St.
22	Burris, Jeff	DB	6-0	204	1	Notre Dame
2	Christie, Steve	K	6-0	185	5	Will. & Mary
85	Copeland, Russell	WR	6-0	200	2	Memphis
43	Darby, Matt	S	6-1	200	3	UCLA
41	Evans, Greg	S	6-1	217	R	TCU
70	Fina, John	OL	6-4	285	3	Arizona
35	Gardner, Carwell	FB	6-2	244	5	Louisville
90	Hansen, Phil	DE	6-5	278	4	N.D. State
76	Hoyem, Steve	OT	6-7	287	1	Stanford
67	Hull, Kent	C	6-5	284	9	Miss. St.
26	Humphrey, Bobby	RB	6-1	201	2	Alabama
77	Jeffcoat, Jim	DE	6-5	280	12	Ariz. State
39	Johnson, Filmel	CB	5-10	187	R	Illinois
84	Johnson, Lonnie	TE	6-3	230	1	Fla. State
20	Jones, Henry	S	5-11	197	4	Illinois
30	Jourdain, Yonel	RB	5-11	204	1	So. Ill.
12	Kelly, Jim	QB	6-3	226	9	Miami (Fla.)
68	Lacina, Corbin	OL	6-4	297	2	Augustana
63	Lingner, Adam	C	6-4	268	12	Illinois
72	Louchiey, Corey	OT	6-7	305	1	So. Car.
55	Maddox, Mark	LB	6-1	233	4	N. Mich.
9	Mohr, Chris	P	6-5	215	5	Alabama
86	Ofodile, A.J.	TE	6-7	260	R	Missouri
60	Ostroski, Jerry	G	6-2	310	1	Tulsa
74	Parker, Glenn	G-T	6-5	305	5	Arizona
99	Patton, James	DL	6-3	287	2	Texas
95	Paup, Bryce	LB	6-5	247	5	N. Iowa
58	Perry, Marlo	LB	6-4	250	1	Jackson St.
75	Philion, Ed	DT	6-2	273	1	Ferris St.
94	Pike, Mark	DE	6-4	272	9	Ga. Tech
83	Reed, Andre	WR	6-2	190	10	Kutztown
93	Rogers, Sam	LB	6-3	245	1	Colorado
24	Schulz, Kurt	S	6-1	208	3	E. Wash.
78	Smith, Bruce	DE	6-4	273	10	Va. Tech
28	Smith, Thomas	CB	5-11	188	2	N.C.
11	Strom, Rick	QB	6-2	197	5	Ga. Tech
89	Tasker, Steve	WR	5-9	181	10	N'western
86	Thomas, Damon	WR	6-2	215	1	Wayne St.
34	Thomas, Thurman	RB	5-10	198	7	Okla. St.
33	Tindale, Tim	FB	5-10	220	R	W. Ontario
21	Turner, Nate	RB	6-1	255	2	Nebraska
10	Van Pelt, Alex	QB	6-1	219	1	Pittsburgh
92	Washington, Ted	DL	6-4	295	4	Louisville
19	Williams, Tyrone	WR	6-5	220	3	W. Ontario

1995 DRAFT PICKS

ROUND	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	Brown, Ruben	OT	6-3	304	Pittsburgh
2	Collins, Todd	QB	6-4	224	Michigan
3	Kerner, Marlon	CB	5-10	187	Ohio State
3	Covington, Damien	LB	5-11	236	N. C. State
4	Irvin, Ken	CB	5-10	187	Memphis
4	Armour, Justin	WR	6-4	221	Stanford
4	Cline, Tony	TE	6-4	251	Stanford
5	Holecek, John	LB	6-2	238	Illinois
6	Clavelle, Shannon	DE	6-2	283	Colorado
7	Nutten, Tom	OL	6-4	276	W. Mich.
7	Holmes, Darick	RB	6-0	226	Port. St.

1994 WRAP-UP

TEAM DATA

Total Offense:	327.8 yards per game
Total Defense:	323.4 yards per game
Scoring Offense:	21.3 points per game
Scoring Defense:	22.3 points per game

LEADERS

Passing:	Jim Kelly, 285-448-3114-17, 22 TDs
Rushing:	Thurman Thomas, 287 att., 1093 yds., 7 TDs
Receiving:	Andre Reed, 90 rec., 1303 yds., 8 TDs
Kicking:	Steve Christie, 24-28 FGs, 38-38 XP, 110 points
Punting:	Chris Mohr, 67 punts, 41.8 avg.
Kickoff Returns:	Yonel Jourdain, 27 ret., 22.3 avg.
Punt Returns:	Jeff Burris, 32 ret., 10.4 avg.
Tackles:	Darryl Talley, 124, 87 solo
Sacks:	Bruce Smith, 10.0
Interceptions:	Matt Darby, 4 for 20 yds.

RESULTS

at N.Y. Jets	3-23	at N.Y. Jets	17-22
at New England	38-35	at Pittsburgh	10-23
at Houston	15- 7	Green Bay	29-20
Denver	27-20	at Detroit	21-35
at Chicago	13-20	at Miami	42-31
Miami	21-11	Minnesota	17-21
Indianapolis	17-27	New England	17-41
Kansas City	44-10	at Indianapolis	9-10

PROJECTED STARTING LINEUP

OFFENSE

80	BILL BROOKS	WR
70	JOHN FINA	LT
60	JERRY OSTROSKI	LG
67	KENT HULL	C
	RUBEN BROWN	RG
74	GLENN PARKER	RT
84	LONNIE JOHNSON	TE
83	ANDRE REED	WR
12	JIM KELLY	QB
35	CARWELL GARDNER	FB
34	THURMAN THOMAS	RB
2	STEVE CHRISTIE	K

DEFENSE

90	PHIL HANSEN	LE
92	TED WASHINGTON	NT
78	BRUCE SMITH	RE
97	CORNELIUS BENNETT	LOLB
55	MARK MADDOX	RILB
58	MARLO PERRY	LILB
95	BRYCE PAUP	ROLB
22	JEFF BURRIS	LCB
28	THOMAS SMITH	RCB
20	HENRY JONES	SS
43	MATT DARBY	FS
9	CHRIS MOHR	P

Personnel changes made after April 22 may not be reflected.

Information provided by Scott Berchtold, Director of Media Relations.

NEW YORK JETS

The New York Jets' 1995 season officially begins in September.

But in reality, it started on Jan. 5. That was the day when Leon Hess, the Jets' chairman of the board, held only his second news conference since becoming an owner of the franchise in 1963.

Hess came out of the shadows to make a startling announcement: Pete Carroll, who coached the Jets for one season, would be fired. Rich Kotite, who had recently been dumped as coach of the Philadelphia Eagles, would be hired.

"I'm just one of those fans who has been disappointed for 25 years," Hess said. "Let's make a change. If it's wrong, it's my fault, but at least I'm doing something for the fans and trying to do something for myself. I'm entitled to some enjoyment out of this team, and that means winning. I'm 80 years old. I want results now."

BERNARDO M. NUNEZ

JOHNNY MITCHELL

Carroll's Jets had contended in the AFC East until they blew a 24–6 lead against Miami on Nov. 27, 1994. That was the game in which Dan Marino suckered the Jets late in the fourth quarter, pretending to spike the ball to kill the clock, then throwing a game-winning touchdown pass.

It all spiraled downhill from there.

"We think we've had a decent team the past couple of years," Jets general manager Dick Steinberg says. "But we blew that game against Miami, and that sort of thing has been our problem. We have to finish teams off. We have to be smarter, keep the lead and finish games. Basically it's all about attitude, something we really haven't had."

The Jets ended up losing their final five games to finish 6–10, last in the East. They were equally inadequate on offense and defense, ranking 22nd out of 28 teams in both categories.

Sentiment is out in the Jets organization. New York did not renew the contracts of old warriors Ronnie Lott, 36, and Art Monk, 37, both of whom started in 1994. The Jets also traded one of their most gifted receivers, Rob Moore, to Arizona. In return, New York got young running back Ron Moore and the Cardinals' first round draft pick.

QUARTERBACKS

Prepare for possible controversy. Kotite says Boomer Esiason will be No. 1 going into training camp. But Kotite also brought in Bubby Brister, one of his quarterbacks at Philadelphia, as a backup. And Kotite has been known to pull a starter or two. Witness his benching of Randall Cunningham for Brister last season.

So as soon as Esiason doesn't play well, get ready for the Boomer vs. Bubby debate to be played out in the New York sports pages.

In his two years with the Jets, Esiason has become known for fast starts and disappointing finishes. He has won only one game with New York in the month of December in nine attempts.

Esiason (17 touchdowns, 13 interceptions in '94) was certainly a big part of the problem. The Jets couldn't get their offense on track late in the season. They scored only seven, six and 10 points in their last three games.

Brister will challenge Esiason and push for a starting job, just as he did with Cunningham. Brister has the advantage of knowing Kotite's offensive system.

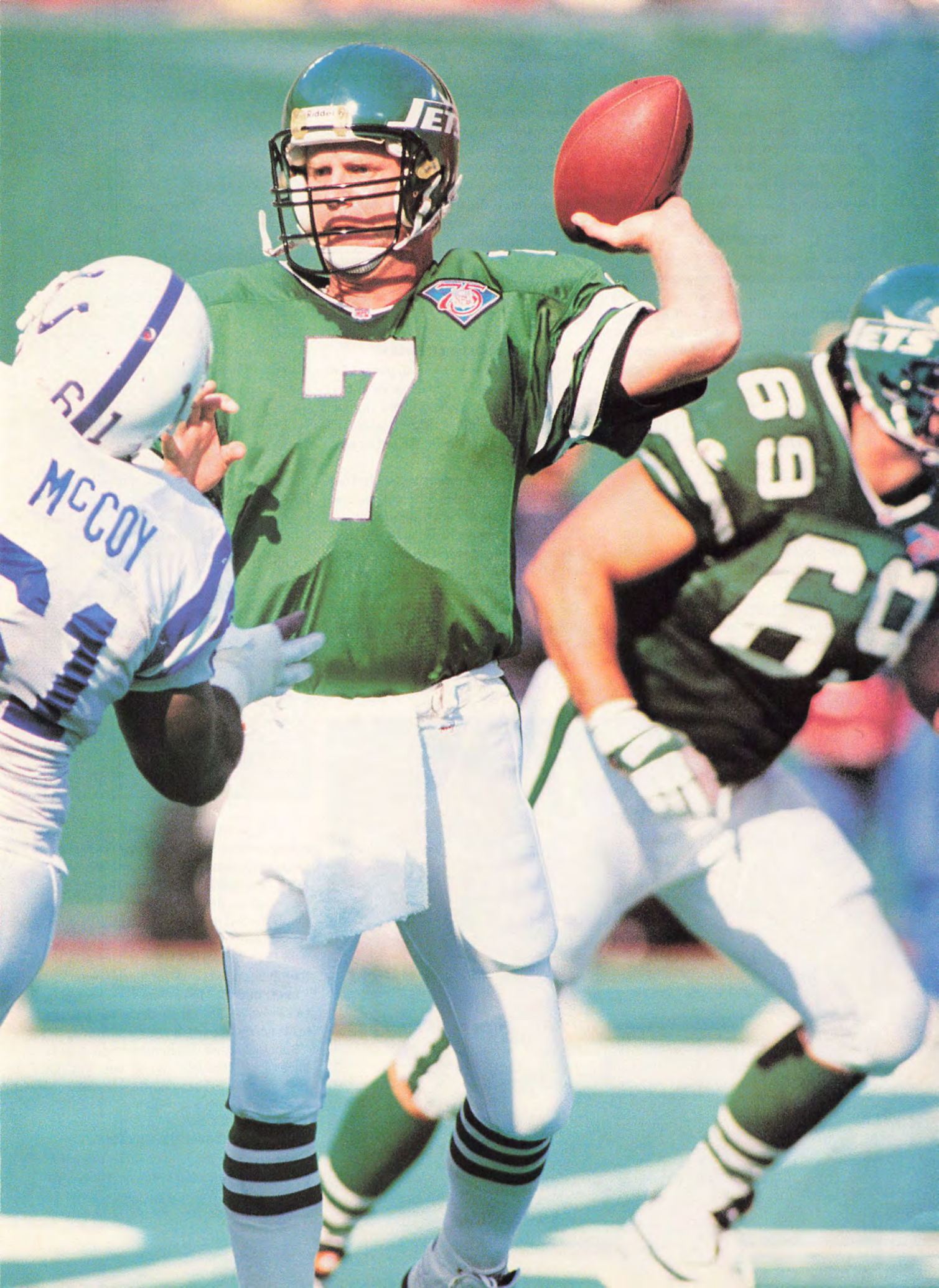
RUNNING BACKS

Moore is a promising runner. Though his second year in the NFL was a letdown after his rookie season (1,018 yards rushing on 263 carries), he's still the workhorse back the Jets could use. He led Arizona with 780 yards last season.

The Jets grabbed Dexter Carter away from the 49ers in the off-season and plan to use him as both a return specialist and a third-down back. Carter was frustrated in San Francisco because he generally ran back kicks and then took a seat on the bench.

Johnny Johnson, who may need to take a pay cut or risk being waived for salary-cap purposes, rushed for 931 yards, including a

MICHAEL PONZINI


JETS
7
MCCOY
89

NEW YORK JETS

90-yard run. But only 339 of those yards came in the second half of the season.

At fullback, New York has re-signed Brad Baxter to start. Baxter had a bad year in 1994, sometimes looking lost in the system and averaging just 2.8 yards per carry.

RECEIVERS

Moore was the Jets' only Pro Bowler in 1994 and was the team's most reliable offensive player. With his absence, the Jets need help. They sliced Monk off the roster after the season because of his age. Second-year man Ryan Yarborough takes over at wide receiver after limited duty a year ago.

In Johnny Mitchell (58 catches, 749 yards), the Jets have a player who can become one of the NFL's best tight ends, and they snagged Kyle Brady of Penn State with their first-round draft pick. A two-tight-end offense may be in the offing.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The weakest part on offense is the line. The Jets could start as many as three new players, so Esiason and Brister better be ready to scramble.

Center Jim Sweeney was waived, another victim of the youth movement. He will be replaced by Cal Dixon. Left tackle Jeff Criswell, considered by many the team's best offensive lineman, left for Kansas City via free agency. He probably will be replaced by Matt Willig, who was a defensive lineman until two years ago.

Left guard is set with Roger Duffy, but right guard Dwayne White left town as a free agent when the Rams offered a five-year, $10 million contract. The vacancy created by White's departure will be filled by second-year man Everett McIver.

Right tackle Siupeli Malamala started nine games in '94 at an essential position, the one that protects the left-handed Esiason's blind side. He needs to have a better and injury-free year in '95.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Kotite will stick with a 4–3 alignment, but he desperately wants to generate more pass rush. He will move Donald Evans from an inside tackle position to end, although whether Evans will play on the left or right side isn't certain.

The Jets re-signed defensive tackle Tony Casillas to a three-year, $4.5 million contract, making a significant commitment.

Marvin Washington, who had only three sacks as a starting end last season, will take over full time at right end, filling the void left by free agent Jeff Lageman's exit.

The open tackle spot alongside Casillas will be filled by Erik Howard, who came over as a free agent in the off-season after notching 6½ sacks with the Giants last year.

JOHNNY JOHNSON

STEVE BEYER

Kotite's Return Home A Family Affair

The hiring of Rich Kotite as the New York Jets' head coach was not exactly heaped with praise.

One New York tabloid ran a picture of Pete Carroll, the 1994 Jets head coach, and Kotite, the '95 head coach, side by side. In huge type, the headline read, "DUMB AND DUMBER."

The rap against Kotite: His final Philadelphia Eagles team lost its last seven games, and he still got another head coaching job.

But in Kotite, the Jets have a man who took the Eagles to a 36–28 record over four seasons and a native New Yorker who knows the rhythms of the city very well.

"This is a dream come true," Kotite said at his first Jets press conference. "To be able to come home to the Jets family, it's a real thrill."

"I think it's a perfect marriage," said Eagles president Harry Gamble, who opposed Kotite's firing but didn't have the power to stop it. "Richie is a New York guy and he's going home, and the Jets are getting an outstanding football coach."

Kotite is a native of Brooklyn and kept his house on Staten Island even when he coached the Eagles.

Kotite's downfall in Philadelphia had something to do with quarterback Randall Cunningham. That relationship became strained when Kotite tried to make Cunningham conform more to an offensive philosophy rather than just run around and try to make things happen.

The Eagles lost their final seven games in 1994 after a 7–2 start. Kotite refused to badmouth owner Jeffrey Lurie, even after he was fired.

Kotite is a good guy. Is he a good head coach, though? We will find out this season.

LINEBACKERS

This is where the Jets' defense is strongest. Outside linebacker Mo Lewis was the team's MVP. Although he wasn't a Pro Bowler, he is perceived in the locker room as the best player the Jets have. That's why the club has signed him through 1999. Lewis led the Jets with 155 total tackles. He also ran two of his four interceptions back for touchdowns.

In the middle, Marvin Jones was second in tackles with 125. He is steady but has not made nearly as many big plays as Lewis.

Bobby Houston is stationed at left outside linebacker. The Jets signed him through 1998 after the '94 season, when he had a career-high 103 tackles, including 3½ sacks.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

This area saw its share of shake-ups in the off-season. Cornerback James Hasty and safety Brian Washington both went to Kansas City as free agents. Cornerback

Eric Thomas signed a contract with Denver.

Left cornerback is set with Aaron Glenn, who didn't have a single interception but covered well and deflected 13 passes away. He was a first-year player in 1994 and should be better this season.

The Jets signed safeties Todd Scott of Minnesota and Gary Jones of Pittsburgh to strengthen the middle.

Marcus Turner will compete with Otis Smith, a free agent from Philadelphia for the corner opposite Glenn.

KICKING GAME

Placekicker Nick Lowery had another fine season, making 20-of-23 field-goal attempts. Punter Brian Hansen had a 42.1-yard average and will be back.

JETS ALL-TIME TEAM

Offense

WR	Don Maynard (1960-72)
TE	Jerome Barkum (1972-83)
T	Winston Hill (1963-76)
G	Bob Mischak (1960-62)
C	Joe Fields (1975-87)
G	Dave Herman (1964-73)
T	Marvin Powell (1977-85)
WR	Wesley Walker (1977-89)
QB	Joe Namath (1965-76)
RB	Freeman McNeil (1981-92)
FB	Matt Snell (1964-72)
K	Pat Leahy (1974-91)

Defense

DE	Mark Gastineau (1979-88)
DT	Joe Klecko (1977-87)
DT	John Elliott (1967-73)
DE	Gerry Philbin (1964-72)
LB	Larry Grantham (1960-72)
LB	Al Atkinson (1965-74)
LB	Ralph Baker (1964-74)
DB	Bill Baird (1963-69)
S	Erik McMillan (1988-92)
S	Jim Hudson (1965-70)
DB	Dainard Paulson (1961-66)
P	Curley Johnson (1961-69)

Special Teams - Bruce Harper (1977-84)

Carter will handle both kickoff and punt returns, which will improve special teams considerably.

BUILDING A WINNER

The Jets, first, must develop a winning attitude. Second, the offensive line must adjust to changes and improve. Third, the secondary can't afford to give up too many big plays.

Finally, New York needs better play at quarterback, whether it comes from Esiason or Brister. That's a lot to ask, but for the Jets to make the playoffs, they'll have to do all of those things well. ■

ROSTER

HEAD COACH: Rich Kotite (NFL Record: 36-30)
1994 RECORD: 6-10, 5th AFC East

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	EXP.	COLLEGE
20	Anderson, Richie	RB	6-2	225	2	Penn State
88	Anderson, Stevie	WR	6-5	215	1	Grambling
98	Barber, Kurt	DE	6-4	249	3	USC
30	Baxter, Brad	FB	6-1	235	5	Ala. State
84	Baxter, Fred	TE	6-3	260	2	Auburn
78	Benfatti, Lou	DT	6-4	278	R	Penn State
6	Brister, Bubby	QB	6-3	207	9	NE La.
94	Brock, Matt	DT	6-6	280	6	Oregon
76	Brown, James	T	6-6	321	2	Va. St.
50	Cadrez, Glenn	LB	6-3	245	3	Houston
35	Carter, Dexter	RB	5-9	174	5	Fla. St.
92	Casillas, Tony	DT	6-3	278	9	Oklahoma
59	Clifton, Kyle	LB	6-4	236	11	TCU
52	Dixon, Cal	C-G	6-4	292	3	Florida
62	Duffy, Roger	G-C	6-3	294	5	Penn State
7	Esiason, Boomer	QB	6-5	224	11	Maryland
66	Evans, Donald	DE	6-2	282	7	Win.-Sal. St.
14	Foley, Glenn	QB	6-2	205	R	Bost. Coll.
31	Glenn, Aaron	CB	5-9	185	R	Texas A&M
21	Green, Victor	CB	5-9	195	2	Akron
11	Hansen, Brian	P	6-4	215	10	Sioux Falls
55	Houston, Bobby	LB	6-2	245	4	N.C. State
	Howard, Erik	DT	6-4	268	10	Wash. St.
39	Johnson, Johnny	RB	6-3	220	5	S. Jose St.
26	Jones, Gary	S	6-2	214	5	Texas A&M
54	Jones, Marvin	LB	6-2	249	2	Fla. State
32	Lester, Fred	FB	6-0	232	R	Ala. A&M
57	Lewis, Mo	LB	6-3	250	4	Georgia
8	Lowery, Nick	K	6-4	205	15	Dartmouth
75	Malamala, Siupeli	T	6-5	315	3	Washington
74	McIver, Everett	G	6-6	315	1	Eliz. C. St.
86	Mitchell, Johnny	TE	6-3	241	3	Nebraska
	Moore, Ron	RB	5-10	220	3	Pitt. St.
29	Murrell, Adrian	RB	5-11	212	2	W. Va.
95	Oglesby, Alfred	DT	6-4	276	4	Houston
89	Parker, Orlando	WR	5-11	190	R	Troy St.
37	Prior, Anthony	CB	5-11	185	2	Wash. St.
38	Scott, Todd	S	5-10	207	4	SW La.
45	Smith, Otis	CB	5-11	184	6	Missouri
27	Terrell, Pat	FS	6-2	210	5	Notre Dame
80	Thornton, James	TE	6-3	252	7	Cal. St. Ful.
23	Turner, Marcus	CB	6-0	190	6	UCLA
97	Washington, Marvin	DE	6-6	272	6	Idaho
77	Willig, Matt	T	6-8	305	2	USC
72	Wisdom, Terrence	G	6-4	300	1	Syracuse
87	Yarborough, Ryan	WR	6-2	190	R	Wyoming

1995 DRAFT PICKS

ROUND	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	Brady, Kyle	TE	6-6	260	Penn St.
1	Douglas, Hugh	DE	6-2	255	Cent. St. (OH)
2	O'Dwyer, Matt	G	6-5	294	Northwestern
4	Hayes, Melvin	OT	6-6	316	Miss. St.
4	Davis, Tyrone	WR	6-5	223	Virginia
5	Greenwood, Carl	DB	6-0	192	UCLA
6	Mason, Eddie	LB	6-0	225	N.C.
7	Ceaser, Curtis	WR	6-3	195	Grambling

1994 WRAP-UP

TEAM DATA

Total Offense:	293.9 yards per game
Total Defense:	333.6 yards per game
Scoring Offense:	16.5 points per game
Scoring Defense:	20.0 points per game

LEADERS

Passing:	Boomer Esiason, 255-440-2782-13, 17 TDs
Rushing:	Johnny Johnson, 240 att., 931 yds., 3 TDs
Receiving:	Rob Moore, 78 rec., 1010 yds., 6 TDS
Kicking:	Nick Lowery, 20-23 FGs, 26-27 XP, 86 points
Punting:	Brian Hansen, 84 punts, 42.1 avg.
Kickoff Returns:	Aaron Glenn, 27 ret., 21.6 avg.
Punt Returns:	Clifford Hicks, 38 ret., 9.0 avg.
Tackles:	Mo Lewis, 155, 114 solo
Sacks:	Jeff Lageman, 6.5
Interceptions:	Marcus Turner, 5 for 155 yds., 1 TD

RESULTS

at Buffalo	23- 3	Buffalo	22-17
Denver (OT)	25-22	at Green Bay	10-17
at Miami	14-28	at Minnesota	31-21
Chicago	7-19	Miami	24-28
at Cleveland	7-27	at New England	13-24
Indianapolis	16- 6	Detroit	7-18
New England	24-17	San Diego	6-21
at Indianapolis	25-28	at Houston	10-24

PROJECTED STARTING LINEUP

OFFENSE

	KYLE BRADY	TE
77	MATT WILLIG	LT
62	ROGER DUFFY	LG
52	CAL DIXON	C
74	EVERETT McIVER	RG
75	SIUPELI MALAMALA	RT
86	JOHNNY MITCHELL	TE
87	RYAN YARBOROUGH	WR
7	BOOMER ESIASON	QB
	RON MOORE	RB
39	JOHNNY JOHNSON	RB
8	NICK LOWERY	K

DEFENSE

66	DONALD EVANS	LE
	ERIK HOWARD	LT
92	TONY CASILLAS	RT
97	MARVIN WASHINGTON	RE
55	BOBBY HOUSTON	LLB
54	MARVIN JONES	MLB
57	MO LEWIS	RLB
31	AARON GLENN	LCB
23	MARCUS TURNER	RCB
38	TODD SCOTT	SS
26	GARY JONES	FS
11	BRIAN HANSEN	P

Personnel changes made after April 22 may not be reflected.

Information provided by Frank Ramos, Director of Public Relations.

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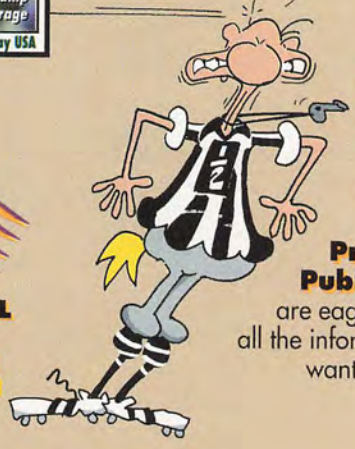

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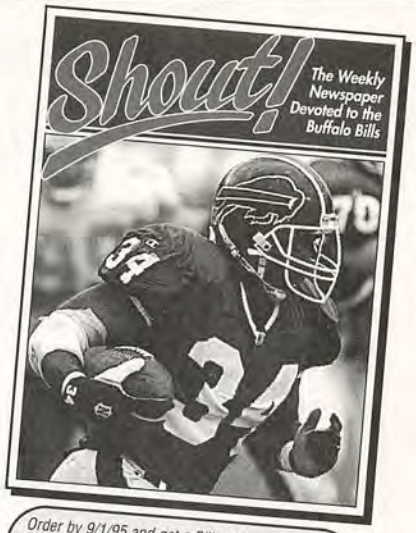

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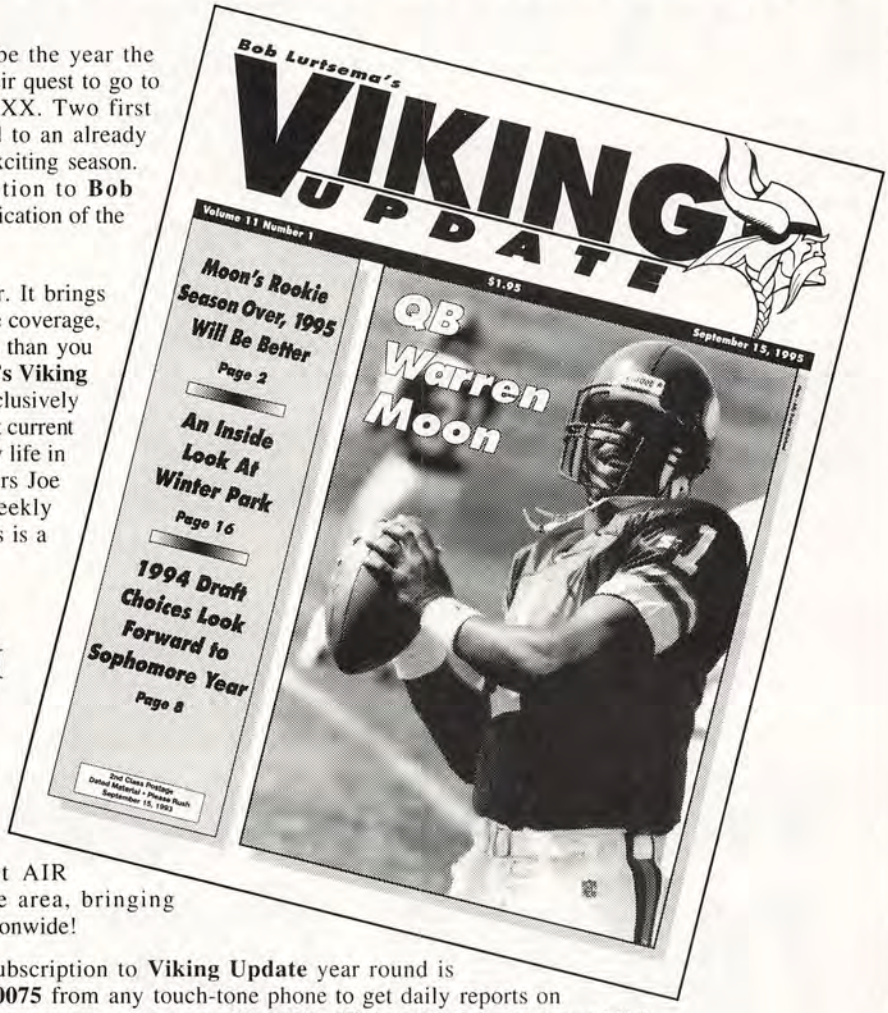

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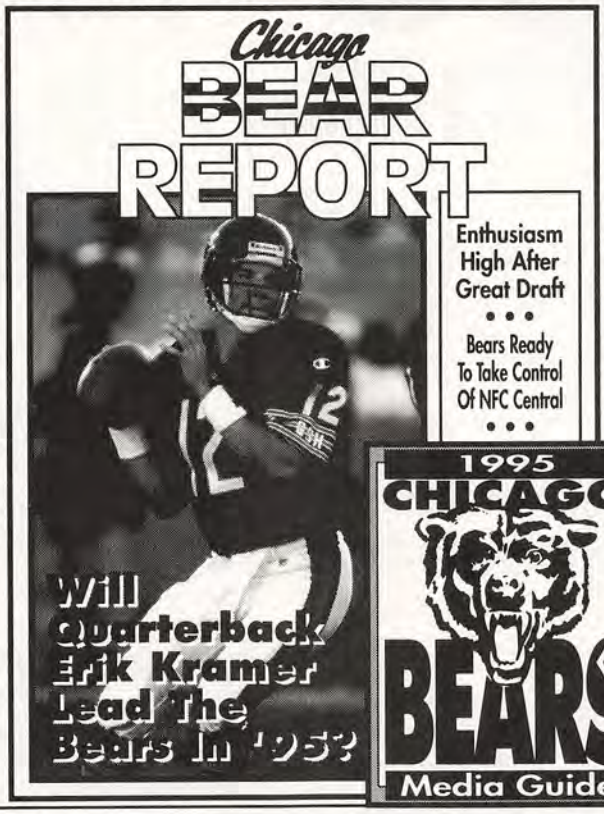

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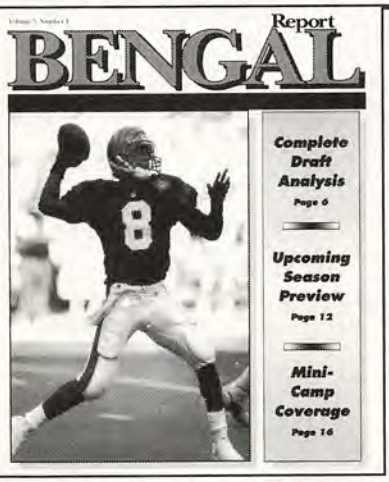

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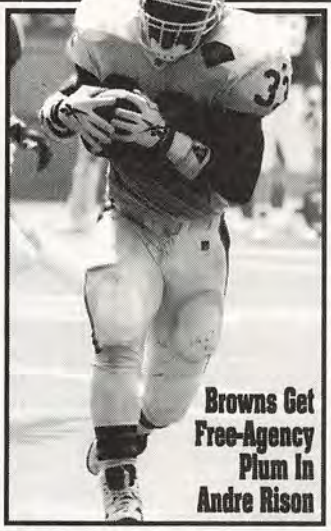

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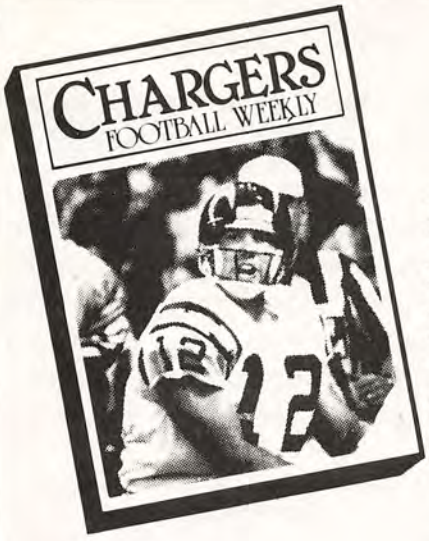

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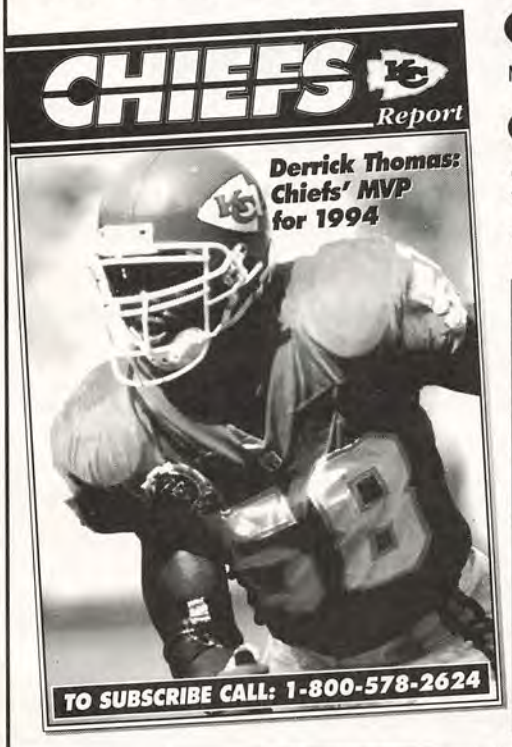

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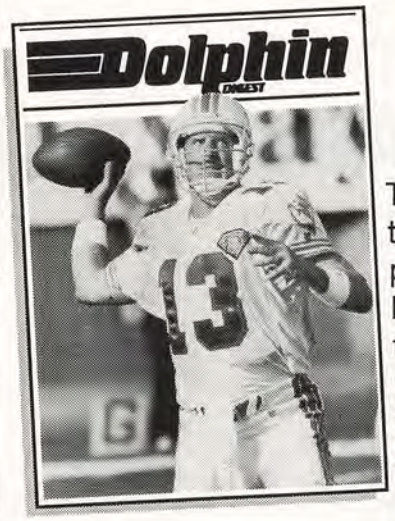

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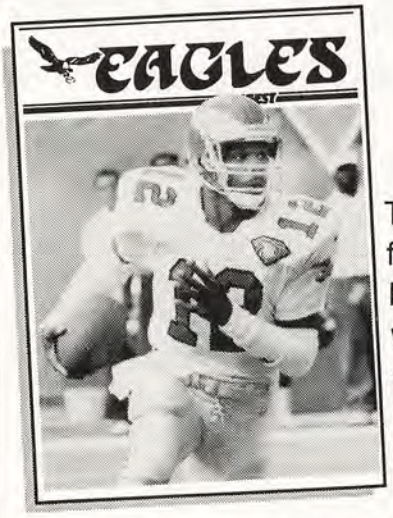

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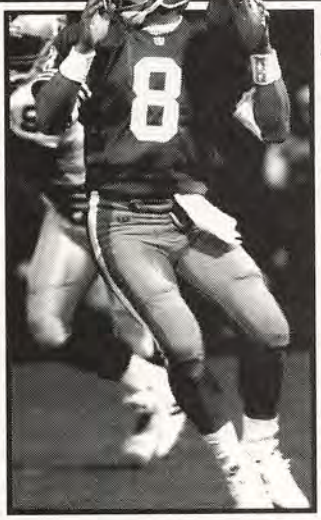

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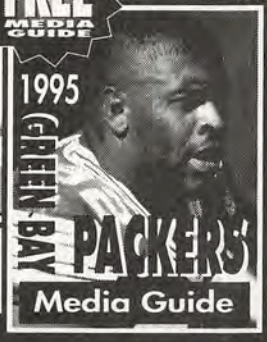

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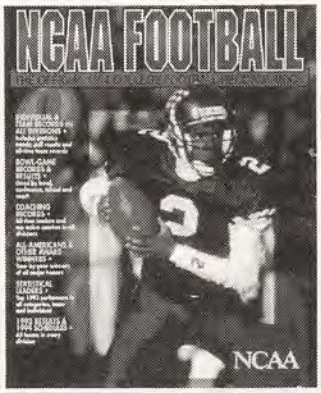

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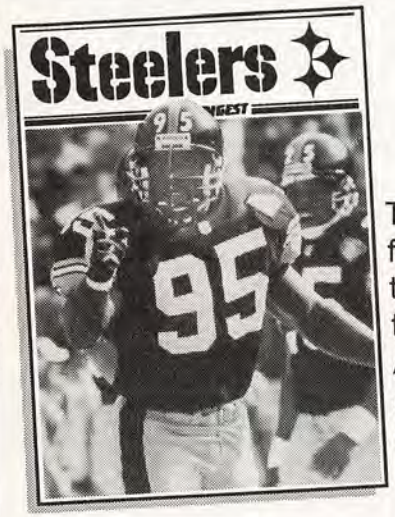

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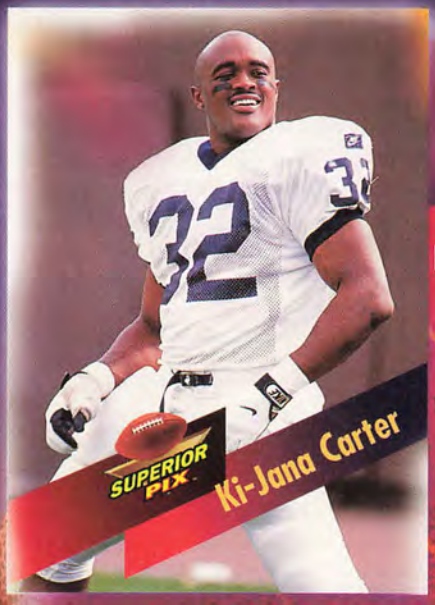

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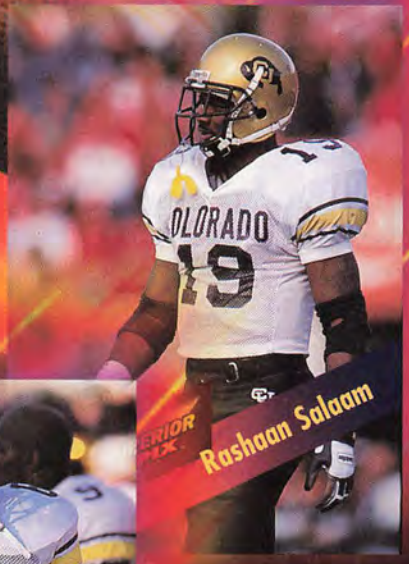

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Draft Day Trading Game by Alan Ross

Down, down, down.

That's what a record-breaking eight teams did in this year's draft — trade down. Clubs jockeyed for position and reposition, exchanging selection position for more picks.

Surprises? Plenty, highlighted by reported league revelations that cited standout defensive tackle Warren Sapp's positive drug test. Sapp, a once certain Top 6 pick, fell to No. 12, a drop that carried a projected $1 million loss.

***Athlon* Grades**

ARIZONA – C+

Needs: WR, sturdy TE, DBs.

What they got: Top WR Frank Sanders (Aub.) and QB project Stoney Case (N. Mex.). No TE.

ATLANTA – C-

Needs: Pass rusher for anemic DL, LB depth.

What they got: Went for DBs (Devon Bush, Fla. St., Ronald Davis, Tenn.) with first two picks. LB Lorenzo Styles (Ohio St.) is highly rated. Failed in No. 1 need for outside pass rusher.

BUFFALO – A-

Needs: OL, future QB, help at LB and DB.

What they got: Top G Ruben Brown (Pitt). Supported aging Jim Kelly, 35, with QB Todd Collins (Mich.).

Skillful trading got Carolina Kerry Collins – plus picks.

CAROLINA – A

Needs: Franchise QB, RB and WR; DB help.

What they got: Traded up to get their man — QB Kerry Collins (Penn. St.) — plus picks. Speedy CB Tyrone Poole (Ft. Valley St.) and OT Blake Brockermeyer (Texas) are big-time.

CHICAGO – B+

Needs: Durable RB, DE, WR.

What they got: Rashaan Salaam (Colo.) was a steal at No. 21. P Todd Sauerbrun (W. Vir.) and WR Jack Jackson (Fla.) help. No top DE.

CINCINNATI – A-

Needs: Big-house RB, perennial OL help.

What they got: Draft gem Ki-Jana Carter (Penn St.). OT Melvin Tuten (Syracuse).

CLEVELAND – C

Needs: DL, Metcalf clone, OLB, future QB.

What they got: Hapless Browns unloaded Metcalf and first pick to move up to No. 10, then traded down to No. 30. A Sapp-passer. Good pick in fleet OLB Craig Powell (Ohio St.).

DALLAS – C

Needs: Erik Williams dilemma dictates signing additional OL help, DBs, backup RB.

What they got: Addressed RB position with second selection Sherman Williams (Ala.).

DENVER C

Needs: DB and OL help.

What they got: Nothing till fourth round. Top selection Jamie Brown (T, Florida A&M) is huge (6–7, 340) but a project.

DETROIT – C-

Needs: Secondary upgrade, TE, marquee OLB.

What they got: Highly regarded DL Luther Ellis (Utah), solid TE in New Mexico's David Sloan, but didn't address secondary needs.

GREEN BAY – B

Needs: WR, ground-game nucleus, DB.

What they got: Premier CB Craig Newsome (Ariz. St.) fills Buckley's spot. Solid picks in DT Darius Holland (Colo.), LB Brian Williams (USC) and WR Antonio Freeman (Vir. Tech).

HOUSTON – B+

Needs: Pass rusher, QB, WR depth.

What they got: Gifted Alcorn St. QB Steve McNair for future. DT Anthony Cook (So. Caro. St.) and RB Rodney Thomas (Texas A&M) help.

INDIANAPOLIS – C+

Needs: Both lines, secondary.

What they got: Ace DT Ellis Johnson (Fla.), FB Zack Crockett (Fla. St.) and TE Ken Dilger (Ill.).

JACKSONVILLE – A

Needs: OL, pass rusher, backups everywhere.

What they got: OL prize Tony Boselli (USC). Traded up to nab No. 19 pick RB James Stewart (Tenn.). Excellent fills with OT Brian DeMarco (Mich. St.) and DB Chris Hudson (Colo.).

KANSAS CITY – B

Needs: Both lines, WR.

What they got: Surprise pick Trazelle Jenkins (Mich.) is tough but needs development. WR/KR Tamerick Vanover (Fla. St. & CFL) is a sizzler.

LOS ANGELES – B-

Needs: DB strength, OL boss, RB depth.

What they got: Cat-quick Napoleon Kaufman (Wash.) ahead of other big-name RBs. C Barret Robbins (TCU). No DBs.

MIAMI – C

Needs: pass rusher, RB, OL, especially center.

What they got: Quick, athletic OT Billy Milner (Hou.). Solidified OL with second-round pick G Andrew Green (Ind.). Great LB prospect in USC's Jeff Kopp. No RBs. No pass rusher.

MINNESOTA – B+

Needs: RB support, future QB, DL.

What they got: highly rated DE Derrick Alexander (Fla. St.) and huge (6–4, 345) OT Korey Stringer (Ohio St.). Excellent DB picks Orlanda Thomas (SW La.) and Corey Fuller (Fla. St).

NEW ENGLAND – C+

Needs: Beef up DL, RB depth.

What they got: Three DBs, including fleet Jimmy Hitchcock (No. Caro.) and Ty Law (Mich.), athletic but inexperienced at man-to-man coverage. No DL help, though.

NEW ORLEANS – B

Needs: Dominant OLB, OL.

What they got: ILB Mark Fields (Wash. St.) excels in coverage. Solid DE Dameian Jeffries (Ala.) and DB William Strong (N.C. State)

NEW YORK GIANTS – B+

Needs: DL and DB.

What they got: Surprise! Tyrone Wheatley (Mich. RB). Solid selection DB Rodney Young (LSU). Good OL help in Rob Zatechka (Neb.).

NEW YORK JETS – C-

Needs: Everywhere, especially OL and DL.

What they got: Inexplicably chose TE Kyle Brady (Penn St.) with Sapp still available. Second first-round pick was fast pass rusher Hugh Douglas (Central St., Ohio).

PHILADELPHIA – B+

Needs: Support at LB, CB, DL depth.

What they got: Top DE Mike Mamula (B.C.), an all-out effort guy with blistering speed. Talented DB in Bobby Taylor (Notre Dame). Highly rated OT Barrett Brocks (Kansas St.).

PITTSBURGH – A-

Needs: Replacement at TE, DL and DB slots.

What they got: No. 2 TE Mark Bruener (Wash.). Athletic Kordell Stewart (Colo.) is future QB.

ST. LOUIS – A-

Needs: DB replacement, QB support, OL.

What they got: Top DL Kevin Carter (Fla.). High OL prospects Zach Wiegert (Neb.) and Jesse James (Miss. St.).

SAN DIEGO – B-

Needs: Premier DB, deep-threat WR.

What they got: Glue-like CB Terrance Shaw (S.F. Austin). Traded up to nab RB Terrell Fletcher (Wis.) in Round 2. OT Tony Berti (4.7 speed, Colo.) was a great late-round pick.

SAN FRANCISCO – C

Needs: RB, depth and youth at WR.

What they got: Creative draft-day trade snared J.J. Stokes (UCLA). Selected two DEs, including third-rated Antonio Armstrong (Texas A&M).

SEATTLE – B

Needs: WR help for Brian Blades, more DBs.

What they got: Joey Galloway (Ohio St.) makes WR a position to respect. Stud TE in Christian Fauria (Colo.). No DB.

TAMPA BAY – A

Needs: Substantial defensive help all over.

What they got: Probably the steal of the draft in Sapp. Smallish Derrick Brooks (Fla. St.) should prove a dynamic pro. Took three DBs to boot.

WASHINGTON – B-

Needs: DL and WR, RBs.

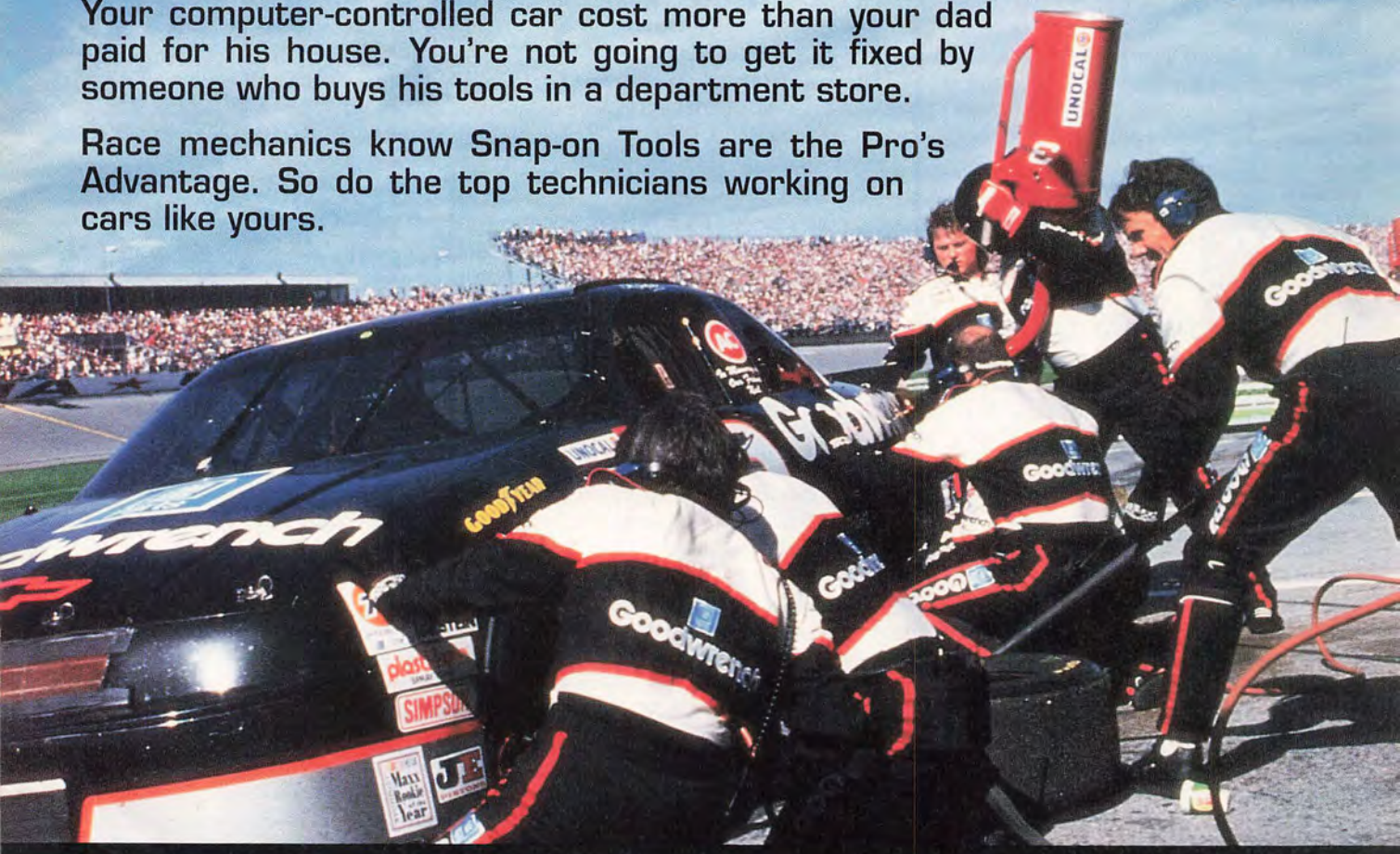
What they got: Top-rated WR Michael Westbrook (Colo.) and C Cory Raymer (Wis.).

SOME DRIVERS KNOW WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN THE PITS.

Some Sunday drivers go faster than others. That's why they win. They have the right equipment, and the skills to use it. Look in the pits and you'll find the top runners have something in common: Snap-on tools. Whether they run on dirt or asphalt, in circles or on roads.

Next time you take your Sunday ride in for a pit stop, check the equipment. Your computer-controlled car cost more than your dad paid for his house. You're not going to get it fixed by someone who buys his tools in a department store.

Race mechanics know Snap-on Tools are the Pro's Advantage. So do the top technicians working on cars like yours.



Snap-on The Pro's Advantage

THE SIDELINES

Thank heaven for little girls. They do grow up in the most delightful ways!

Fortunately, many become NFL cheerleaders to share the field with the masters of the gridiron.

BOB BLAKEMAN

LAYNE MURDOCH

The Sidelines Show

STACI BALDWIN (below) A six-year Seattle Seahawks Sea Gal veteran, Staci holds a B.S. in accounting from City University and works as an auditor. She lists *Seinfeld* as her favorite television show and pizza as one of her favorite foods. That's a quality combination.

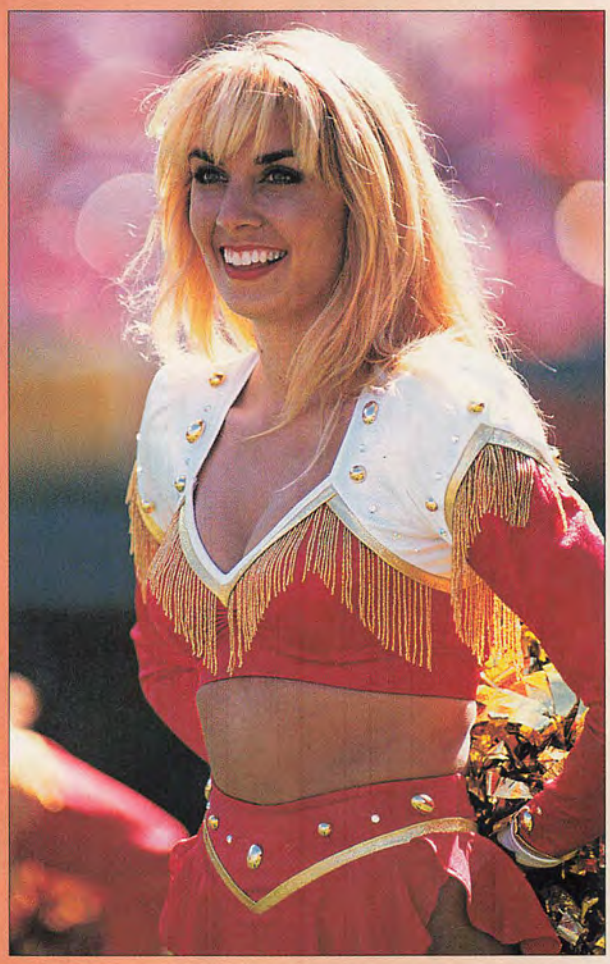
ANA-MARIA CARRASCO (right) A native of La Paz, Bolivia, Ana-Maria enjoys motorcycling in her spare time. She uses her Spanish language skills during Los Angeles Raiders promotional events that include Hispanic crowds. When the Raiders played in the American Bowl in Barcelona, Spain, last summer, Ana-Maria participated in various interviews and photo sessions.

JENNIFER TRASK (below) In her spare time, Jennifer likes to rock to the sounds of such high-energy bands as Smashing Pumpkins, Pennywise and The Offspring. A San Diego native, she has worked with the Chargers organization for three years. Jennifer enjoys snow skiing, jet skiing, gymnastics, rollerblading and mountain biking.

BRANDY SIBLEY (left) A native of Austell, Ga., Brandy has been an Atlanta Falcons cheerleader for five years and has been dancing for more than seven. She has done charitable work with Special Olympics and the Shepherd Spinal Center.

ANGELA GORDON (right) Angela is in the process of completing coursework that will certify her to teach high school English. Her hobbies include photography and reading, and her favorite book is John Grisham's *The Client.*

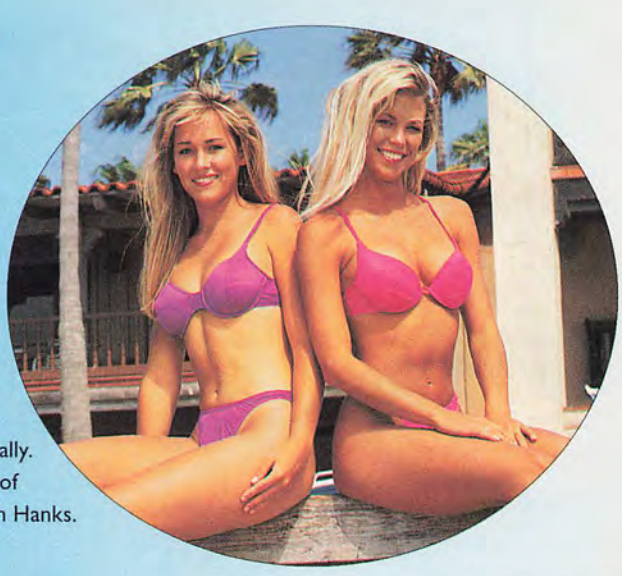
SHAUNA TRAVINS (below) A liberal studies major at San Francisco State University, Shauna hopes one day to teach hearing-impaired children. She was featured during pregame activities of a 49ers preseason game last year "signing" the National Anthem for a sold-out crowd. In her spare time, Shauna, a four-year member of the 49ers Gold Rush cheerleading squad, models.



LISA EDEL (above) Philadelphia native Lisa Edel enjoys sampling the numerous cultural and entertainment offerings found in the City of Brotherly Love. A Penn State graduate who majored in public speaking, Lisa works as a marketing specialist. The Eagles cheerleader enjoys boating, bicycling and watching various spectator sports, particularly lacrosse and, of course, football. When time permits, Lisa volunteers as a reading tutor for the Mayor's Commission on Literacy, an adult education program.

The Sidelines Show

GIGI PITTMAN (above) A graduate of Midwestern University (where she majored in music), Gigi competed in the 1992 Miss Texas Pageant, receiving the Most Talented Vocalist award. In her spare time, the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleader models, sings and reads.



SHELBY CHRISTMAN & JAMIE RICH (right and far right) Shelby lists drawing and arts/crafts as her hobbies. She would like to work one day as a graphic artist or teacher. A beach volleyball enthusiast, Jamie hopes to teach elementary school and dance professionally. Both Charger Girls are fans of Academy Award-winner Tom Hanks.

KIMBERLY RENNINGER (right) This Philadelphia Eagles Cheerleader counts volleyball, swimming, fishing, rollerblading and football among her interests. Kimberly's goal is to earn a bachelor's degree in education and begin a teaching career.

JULIE SHIPLEY (left) When not cheering the Seahawks, Julie works as a loan officer at a Seattle bank. A University of Washington graduate with a degree in economics, Julie studied gymnastics for 15 years. Her favorite television shows are *Seinfeld, Northern Exposure* and *Home Improvement.*

BARBARA NOTO (above) Last season was Barbara's first as a Raiderette. She notes it was a memorable experience highlighted by the team's exhibition game in Barcelona, Spain. Barbara's hobbies include weight lifting, dancing and playing the piano.

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LISA CALLAHAN (above) Lisa, an aerobics instructor and mother of one, was a rookie on the Los Angeles Rams cheerleading squad in 1994. She enjoys participating in various water sports in her free time.

LESLIE VITALE (right) Leslie is a two-year veteran of the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders. A full-time student at North Lake College, she is majoring in advertising and minoring in marketing. When she has some spare time, Leslie enjoys jet skiing, reading and exercising.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS GOLDEN NUGGETS (above) Gold Rush members include, from left, Holly Miller, Tanisha Bazan, Dayna Joseph, Dana Stypula, Sherlyn Roy, Naja Franklin, Princess Littleton and Irene Donnelly.

The Sidelines Show

SHANNON FLANAGAN (left) Shannon has been a Sea Gal for three years. An administrative assistant, Shannon enjoys television's *Home Improvement* and *Mad About You*, and lists Jack Nicholson and Jodie Foster as her favorite film stars. Among her hobbies are softball, sewing, cooking and fishing. In the City of Grunge, folks are mad about Shannon.

CARRIE REEVES (right) A Southern Methodist University student, Carrie is beginning her second season as a Dallas Cowboys Cheerleader. She enjoys running, dancing and working with her church youth group.. Carrie's career goal is to work as an actress.

SHONAREE MURRAY (left) Shonaree enters her second season with the Raiderettes with much excitement. A graduate of Baylor University in Waco, Texas, she now lives in Los Angeles. Shonaree, an insurance claims representative, enjoys dancing, singing and outdoor sports.

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1995 NFL SCHEDULES

BUD LIGHT BEER

AFC

EAST

Buffalo Bills
S. 3 at Denver–8:00
S. 10 CAROLINA–1:00
S. 17 INDIANAPOLIS–1:00
O. 2 at Cleveland (Mon.)–9:00
O. 8 N.Y. JETS–1:00
O. 15 SEATTLE–1:00
O. 23 at New England (Mon.)–9:00
O. 29 at Miami–4:00
N. 5 at Indianapolis–1:00
N. 12 ATLANTA–1:00
N. 19 at N.Y. Jets–1:00
N. 26 NEW ENGLAND–1:00
D. 3 at San Francisco–8:00
D. 10 at St. Louis–1:00
D. 17 Miami–1:00
D. 24 Houston–1:00

Indianapolis Colts
S. 3 CINCINNATI–1:00
S. 10 at N.Y. Jets–4:00
S. 17 at Buffalo–1:00
O. 1 ST. LOUIS–1:00
O. 8 at Miami–4:00
O. 15 SAN FRANCISCO–1:00
O. 22 at Los Angeles–4:00
O. 29 N.Y. JETS–1:00
N. 5 BUFFALO–1:00
N. 12 at New Orleans–1:00
N. 19 at New England–1:00
N. 26 MIAMI–1:00
D. 3 at Carolina–1:00
D. 10 at Jacksonville–1:00
D. 17 SAN DIEGO–4:00
D. 23 NEW ENGLAND (Sat.)–8:00

Miami Dolphins
S. 3 NEW YORK JETS–4:00
S. 10 at New England–1:00
S. 18 PITTSBURGH (Mon.)–9:00
O. 1 at Cincinnati–1:00
O. 8 INDIANAPOLIS–4:00
O. 15 at New Orleans–4:00
O. 22 at N.Y. Jets–1:00
O. 29 BUFFALO–4:00
N. 5 at San Diego–8:00
N. 12 NEW ENGLAND–1:00
N. 20 SAN FRANCISCO (Mon.)–9:00
N. 26 at Indianapolis–1:00
D. 3 ATLANTA–1:00
D. 11 KANSAS CITY (Mon.)–9:00
D. 17 at Buffalo–1:00
D. 24 at St. Louis–4:00

New England Patriots
S. 3 CLEVELAND–1:00
S. 10 MIAMI–1:00
S. 17 at San Francisco–4:00
O. 1 at Atlanta–1:00
O. 8 DENVER–8:00
O. 15 at Kansas City–1:00
O. 23 BUFFALO (Mon.)–9:00
O. 29 CAROLINA–1:00
N. 5 at N.Y. Jets–1:00
N. 12 at Miami–1:00
N. 19 INDIANAPOLIS–1:00
N. 26 at Buffalo–1:00
D. 3 NEW ORLEANS–1:00
D. 10 N.Y. JETS–1:00
D. 16 at Pittsburgh (Sat.)–12:30
D. 23 at Indianapolis (Sat.)–8:00

New York Jets
S. 3 at Miami–4:00
S. 10 INDIANAPOLIS–4:00
S. 17 JACKSONVILLE–4:00
S. 24 at Atlanta–4:00
O. 1 LOS ANGELES–8:00
O. 8 at Buffalo–1:00
O. 15 at Carolina–4:00
O. 22 MIAMI–1:00
O. 29 at Indianapolis–1:00
N. 5 NEW ENGLAND–1:00
N. 19 BUFFALO–4:00
N. 26 at Seattle–4:00
D. 3 ST. LOUIS–1:00
D. 10 at New England–1:00
D. 17 at Houston–1:00
D. 24 NEW ORLEANS–1:00

CENTRAL

Cincinnati Bengals
S. 3 at Indianapolis–1:00
S. 10 JACKSONVILLE–4:00
S. 17 at Seattle–4:00
S. 24 HOUSTON–4:00
O. 1 MIAMI–1:00
O. 8 at Tampa Bay–1:00
O. 19 at Pittsburgh (Thurs.)–8:00
O. 29 CLEVELAND–1:00
N. 5 LOS ANGELES–4:00
N. 12 at Houston–1:00
N. 19 PITTSBURGH–1:00
N. 26 at Jacksonville–1:00
D. 3 at Green Bay–1:00
D. 10 CHICAGO–1:00
D. 17 at Cleveland–1:00
D. 24 MINNESOTA–1:00

Cleveland Browns
S. 3 at New England–1:00
S. 10 TAMPA BAY–1:00
S. 17 at Houston–1:00
S. 24 KANSAS CITY–4:00
O. 2 BUFFALO (Mon.)–9:00
O. 8 at Detroit–4:00
O. 22 JACKSONVILLE–1:00
O. 29 at Cincinnati–1:00
N. 5 HOUSTON–1:00
N. 13 at Pittsburgh (Mon.)–9:00
N. 19 GREEN BAY–1:00
N. 26 PITTSBURGH–4:00
D. 3 at San Diego–4:00
D. 9 at Minnesota (Sat.)–12:30
D. 17 CINCINNATI–1:00
D. 24 at Jacksonville–1:00

Houston Oilers
S. 3 at Jacksonville–1:00
S. 10 PITTSBURGH–1:00
S. 17 CLEVELAND–1:00
S. 24 at Cincinnati–4:00
O. 1 JACKSONVILLE–4:00
O. 8 at Minnesota–1:00
O. 22 at Chicago–1:00
O. 29 TAMPA BAY–4:00
N. 5 at Cleveland–1:00
N. 12 CINCINNATI–1:00
N. 19 at Kansas City–8:00
N. 26 DENVER–4:00
D. 3 at Pittsburgh–1:00
D. 10 DETROIT–1:00
D. 17 N.Y. Jets–1:00
D. 24 at Buffalo–1:00

Pittsburgh Steelers
S. 3 DETROIT–1:00
S. 10 at Houston–1:00
S. 18 at MIAMI (Mon.)–9:00
S. 24 MINNESOTA–1:00
O. 1 SAN DIEGO–4:00
O. 8 at Jacksonville–1:00
O. 19 CINCINNATI (Thurs.)–8:00
O. 29 JACKSONVILLE–1:00
N. 5 at Chicago–4:00
N. 13 CLEVELAND (Mon.)–9:00
N. 19 at Cincinnati–1:00
N. 26 at Cleveland–4:00
D. 3 HOUSTON–1:00
D. 10 at Los Angeles–4:00
D. 16 NEW ENGLAND (Sat.)–12:30
D. 24 at Green Bay–1:00

Jacksonville Jaguars
S. 3 HOUSTON–1:00
S. 10 at Cincinnati–4:00
S. 17 at N.Y. Jets–4:00
S. 24 GREEN BAY–8:00
O. 1 at Houston–4:00
O. 8 PITTSBURGH–1:00
O. 15 CHICAGO–1:00
O. 22 at Cleveland–1:00
O. 29 at Pittsburgh–1:00
N. 12 SEATTLE–1:00
N. 19 at Tampa Bay–1:00
N. 26 CINCINNATI–1:00
D. 3 at Denver–4:00
D. 10 INDIANAPOLIS–1:00
D. 17 at Detroit–1:00
D. 24 CLEVELAND–1:00

WEST

Denver Broncos
S. 3 BUFFALO–8:00
S. 10 at Dallas–4:00
S. 17 WASHINGTON–4:00
S. 24 at San Diego–4:00
O. 1 at Seattle–4:00
O. 8 at New England–8:00
O. 16 LOS ANGELES (Mon.)–9:00
O. 22 KANSAS CITY–4:00
N. 5 ARIZONA–4:00
N. 12 at Philadelphia–8:00
N. 19 SAN DIEGO–4:00
N. 26 at Houston–4:00
D. 3 JACKSONVILLE–4:00
D. 10 SEATTLE–4:00
D. 17 at Kansas City–4:00
D. 24 at Los Angeles–4:00

Kansas City Chiefs
S. 3 at Seattle–4:00
S. 10 N.Y. GIANTS–1:00
S. 17 LOS ANGELES–1:00
S. 24 at Cleveland–4:00
O. 1 at Arizona–4:00
O. 9 SAN DIEGO (Mon.)–9:00
O. 15 NEW ENGLAND–1:00
O. 22 at Denver–4:00
N. 5 WASHINGTON–1:00
N. 12 at San Diego–4:00
N. 19 HOUSTON–8:00
N. 23 at Dallas (Thurs.)–4:00
D. 3 at Los Angeles–4:00
D. 11 at Miami (Mon.)–9:00
D. 17 DENVER–4:00
D. 24 SEATTLE–1:00

Los Angeles Raiders
S. 3 SAN DIEGO–4:00
S. 10 at Washington–1:00
S. 17 at Kansas City–1:00
S. 24 PHILADELPHIA–4:00
O. 1 at N.Y. Jets–8:00
O. 8 SEATTLE–4:00
O. 16 at Denver (Mon.)–9:00
O. 22 INDIANAPOLIS–4:00
N. 5 at Cincinnati–4:00
N. 12 at N.Y. Giants–1:00
N. 19 DALLAS–4:00
N. 27 at San Diego–9:00
D. 3 KANSAS CITY–4:00
D. 10 PITTSBURGH–4:00
D. 17 at Seattle–8:00
D. 24 DENVER–4:00

San Diego Chargers
S. 3 at Los Angeles–4:00
S. 10 SEATTLE–4:00
S. 17 at Philadelphia–1:00
S. 24 DENVER–4:00
O. 1 at Pittsburgh–4:00
O. 9 at Kansas City (Mon.)–9:00
O. 15 DALLAS–4:00
O. 22 at Seattle–4:00
N. 5 MIAMI–8:00
N. 12 KANSAS CITY–4:00
N. 19 at Denver–4:00
N. 27 LOS ANGELES–9:00
D. 3 CLEVELAND–4:00
D. 9 ARIZONA (Sat.)–4:00
D. 17 at Indianapolis–4:00
D. 23 at N.Y. Giants–12:30

Seattle Seahawks
S. 3 KANSAS CITY–4:00
S. 10 at San Diego–4:00
S. 17 CINCINNATI–4:00
O. 1 DENVER–4:00
O. 8 at Los Angeles–4:00
O. 15 at Buffalo–1:00
O. 22 SAN DIEGO–4:00
O. 29 at Arizona–4:00
N. 5 N.Y. Giants–4:00
N. 12 at Jacksonville–1:00
N. 19 at Washington–1:00
N. 26 N.Y. JETS–4:00
D. 3 PHILADELPHIA–4:00
D. 10 at Denver–4:00
D. 17 LOS ANGELES–8:00
D. 24 at Kansas City–1:00

NFC

EAST

Arizona Cardinals
S. 3 at Washington–4:00
S. 10 PHILADELPHIA–8:00
S. 17 at Detroit–1:00
S. 24 at Dallas–4:00
O. 1 KANSAS CITY–4:00
O. 8 at N.Y. Giants–4:00
O. 15 WASHINGTON–4:00
O. 29 SEATTLE–4:00
N. 5 at Denver–4:00
N. 12 MINNESOTA–4:00
N. 19 at Carolina–1:00
N. 26 ATLANTA–4:00
N. 30 N.Y. GIANTS (Thurs.)–8:00
D. 9 at San Diego (Sat.)–4:00
D. 17 at Philadelphia–1:00
D. 25 DALLAS (Mon.)–9:00

Dallas Cowboys
S. 4 at N.Y. Giants (Mon.)–9:00
S. 10 DENVER–4:00
S. 17 at Minnesota–8:00
S. 24 ARIZONA–4:00
O. 1 at Washington–1:00
O. 8 GREEN BAY–1:00
O. 15 at San Diego–4:00
O. 29 at Atlanta–1:00
N. 6 PHILADELPHIA (Mon.)–9:00
N. 12 SAN FRANCISCO–4:00
N. 19 at Los Angeles–4:00
N. 23 KANSAS CITY (Thurs.)–4:00
D. 3 WASHINGTON–4:00
D. 10 at Philadelphia–1:00
D. 17 N.Y. GIANTS–4:00
D. 25 at Arizona (Mon.)–9:00

New York Giants
S. 4 DALLAS (Mon.)–9:00
S. 10 at Kansas City–1:00
S. 17 at Green Bay–1:00
S. 24 NEW ORLEANS–1:00
O. 1 at San Francisco–4:00
O. 8 ARIZONA–4:00
O. 15 PHILADELPHIA–1:00
O. 29 at Washington–8:00
N. 5 at Seattle–4:00
N. 12 LOS ANGELES–1:00
N. 19 at Philadelphia–1:00
N. 26 CHICAGO–1:00
N. 30 at Arizona (Thurs.)–8:00
D. 10 WASHINGTON–4:00
D. 17 at Dallas–4:00
D. 23 SAN DIEGO (Sat.)–12:30

Philadelphia Eagles
S. 3 TAMPA BAY–1:00
S. 10 at Arizona–8:00
S. 17 SAN DIEGO–1:00
S. 24 at Los Angeles–4:00
O. 1 at New Orleans–1:00
O. 8 WASHINGTON–1:00
O. 15 at N.Y. Giants–1:00
O. 29 ST. LOUIS–1:00
N. 6 at Dallas (Mon.)–9:00
N. 12 DENVER–8:00
N. 19 N.Y. GIANTS–1:00
N. 26 at Washington–1:00
D. 3 at Seattle–4:00
D. 10 DALLAS–1:00
D. 17 ARIZONA–1:00
D. 24 at Chicago–1:00

Washington Redskins
S. 3 ARIZONA–4:00
S. 10 LOS ANGELES–1:00
S. 17 at Denver–4:00
S. 24 at Tampa Bay–1:00
O. 1 DALLAS–1:00
O. 8 at Philadelphia–1:00
O. 15 at Arizona–4:00
O. 22 DETROIT–1:00
O. 29 N.Y. GIANTS–8:00
N. 5 at Kansas City–1:00
N. 19 SEATTLE–1:00
N. 26 PHILADELPHIA–1:00
D. 3 at Dallas–4:00
D. 10 at N.Y. Giants–4:00
D. 17 at St. Louis–1:00
D. 24 CAROLINA–4:00

CENTRAL

Chicago Bears
S. 3 MINNESOTA–4:00
S. 11 GREEN BAY (Mon.)–9:00
S. 17 at Tampa Bay–4:00
S. 24 at St. Louis–1:00
O. 8 CAROLINA–1:00
O. 15 at Jacksonville–1:00
O. 22 HOUSTON–1:00
O. 30 at Minnesota (Mon.)–9:00
N. 5 PITTSBURGH–4:00
N. 12 at Green Bay–1:00
N. 19 DETROIT–1:00
N. 26 at N.Y. Giants–1:00
D. 4 at Detroit (Mon.)–9:00
D. 10 at Cincinnati–1:00
D. 17 TAMPA BAY–1:00
D. 24 PHILADELPHIA–1:00

Detroit Lions
S. 3 at Pittsburgh–1:00
S. 10 at Minnesota–1:00
S. 17 ARIZONA–1:00
S. 25 SAN FRANCISCO (Mon.)–9:00
O. 8 CLEVELAND–4:00
O. 15 at Green Bay–1:00
O. 22 at Washington–1:00
O. 29 GREEN BAY–1:00
N. 5 at Atlanta–1:00
N. 12 TAMPA BAY–1:00
N. 19 at Chicago–1:00
N. 23 MINNESOTA (Thurs.)–12:30
D. 4 CHICAGO (Mon.)–9:00
D. 10 at Houston–1:00
D. 17 JACKSONVILLE–1:00
D. 23 at Tampa Bay (Sat.)–4:00

Green Bay Packers
S. 3 ST. LOUIS–1:00
S. 11 at Chicago (Mon.)–9:00
S. 17 N.Y. GIANTS–1:00
S. 24 at Jacksonville–8:00
O. 8 at Dallas–1:00
O. 15 DETROIT–1:00
O. 22 MINNESOTA–1:00
O. 29 at Detroit–1:00
N. 5 at Minnesota–1:00
N. 12 CHICAGO–1:00
N. 19 at Cleveland–1:00
N. 26 TAMPA BAY–1:00
D. 3 CINCINNATI–1:00
D. 10 at Tampa Bay–8:00
D. 16 at New Orleans (Sat.)–4:00
D. 24 PITTSBURGH–1:00

Minnesota Vikings
S. 3 at Chicago–4:00
S. 10 DETROIT–1:00
S. 17 DALLAS–8:00
S. 24 at Pittsburgh–1:00
O. 8 HOUSTON–1:00
O. 15 at Tampa Bay–1:00
O. 22 at Green Bay–1:00
O. 30 CHICAGO (Mon.)–9:00
N. 5 GREEN BAY–1:00
N. 12 at Arizona–4:00
N. 19 NEW ORLEANS–4:00
N. 23 at Detroit (Thurs.)–12:30
D. 3 TAMPA BAY–1:00
D. 9 CLEVELAND (Sat.)–12:30
D. 18 at San Francisco (Mon.)–9:00
D. 24 at Cincinnati–1:00

Tampa Bay Buccaneers
S. 3 at Philadelphia–1:00
S. 10 at Cleveland–1:00
S. 17 CHICAGO–4:00
S. 24 WASHINGTON–1:00
O. 1 at Carolina–1:00
O. 8 CINCINNATI–1:00
O. 15 MINNESOTA–1:00
O. 22 ATLANTA–1:00
O. 29 at Houston–4:00
N. 12 at Detroit–1:00
N. 19 JACKSONVILLE–1:00
N. 26 at Green Bay–1:00
D. 3 at Minnesota–1:00
D. 10 GREEN BAY–8:00
D. 17 at Chicago–1:00
D. 23 DETROIT (Sat.)–4:00

WEST

Atlanta Falcons
S. 3 CAROLINA–1:00
S. 10 at San Francisco–4:00
S. 17 at New Orleans–1:00
S. 24 N.Y. JETS–4:00
O. 1 NEW ENGLAND–1:00
O. 12 at St. Louis (Thurs.)–8:00
O. 22 at Tampa Bay–1:00
O. 29 DALLAS–1:00
N. 5 DETROIT–1:00
N. 12 at Buffalo–1:00
N. 19 ST. LOUIS–1:00
N. 26 at Arizona–4:00
D. 3 at Miami–1:00
D. 10 NEW ORLEANS–1:00
D. 17 at Carolina–1:00
D. 24 SAN FRANCISCO–1:00

New Orleans Saints
S. 3 SAN FRANCISCO–1:00
S. 10 at St. Louis–1:00
S. 17 ATLANTA–1:00
S. 24 at N.Y. Giants–1:00
O. 1 PHILADELPHIA–1:00
O. 15 MIAMI–4:00
O. 22 at Carolina–1:00
O. 29 at San Francisco–4:00
N. 5 ST. LOUIS–1:00
N. 12 INDIANAPOLIS–1:00
N. 19 at Minnesota–4:00
N. 26 CAROLINA–8:00
D. 3 at New England–1:00
D. 10 at Atlanta–1:00
D. 16 GREEN BAY (Sat.)–4:00
D. 24 at N.Y. Jets–1:00

St. Louis Rams
S. 3 at Green Bay–1:00
S. 10 NEW ORLEANS–1:00
S. 17 at Carolina–1:00
S. 24 CHICAGO–1:00
O. 1 at Indianapolis–1:00
O. 12 ATLANTA (Thurs.)–8:00
O. 22 SAN FRANCISCO–4:00
O. 29 at Philadelphia–1:00
N. 5 at New Orleans–1:00
N. 12 CAROLINA–1:00
N. 19 at Atlanta–1:00
N. 26 at San Francisco–4:00
D. 3 at N.Y. Jets–1:00
D. 10 BUFFALO–1:00
D. 17 WASHINGTON–1:00
D. 24 MIAMI–4:00

San Francisco 49ers
S. 3 at New Orleans–1:00
S. 10 ATLANTA–4:00
S. 17 NEW ENGLAND–4:00
S. 25 at Detroit (Mon.)–9:00
O. 1 N.Y. GIANTS–4:00
O. 15 at Indianapolis–1:00
O. 22 at St. Louis–4:00
O. 29 NEW ORLEANS–4:00
N. 5 CAROLINA–4:00
N. 12 at Dallas–4:00
N. 20 at Miami (Mon.)–9:00
N. 26 ST. LOUIS–4:00
D. 3 BUFFALO–8:00
D. 10 at Carolina–1:00
D. 18 MINNESOTA (Mon.)–9:00
D. 24 at Atlanta–1:00

Carolina Panthers
S. 3 at Atlanta–1:00
S. 10 at Buffalo–1:00
S. 17 ST. LOUIS–1:00
O. 1 TAMPA BAY–1:00
O. 8 at Chicago–1:00
O. 15 N.Y. JETS–4:00
O. 22 NEW ORLEANS–1:00
O. 29 at New England–1:00
N. 5 at San Francisco–4:00
N. 12 at St. Louis–1:00
N. 19 ARIZONA–1:00
N. 26 at New Orleans–8:00
D. 3 INDIANAPOLIS–1:00
D. 10 SAN FRANCISCO–1:00
D. 17 ATLANTA–1:00
D. 24 at Washington–4:00

All times Eastern. All games Sunday unless noted otherwise.

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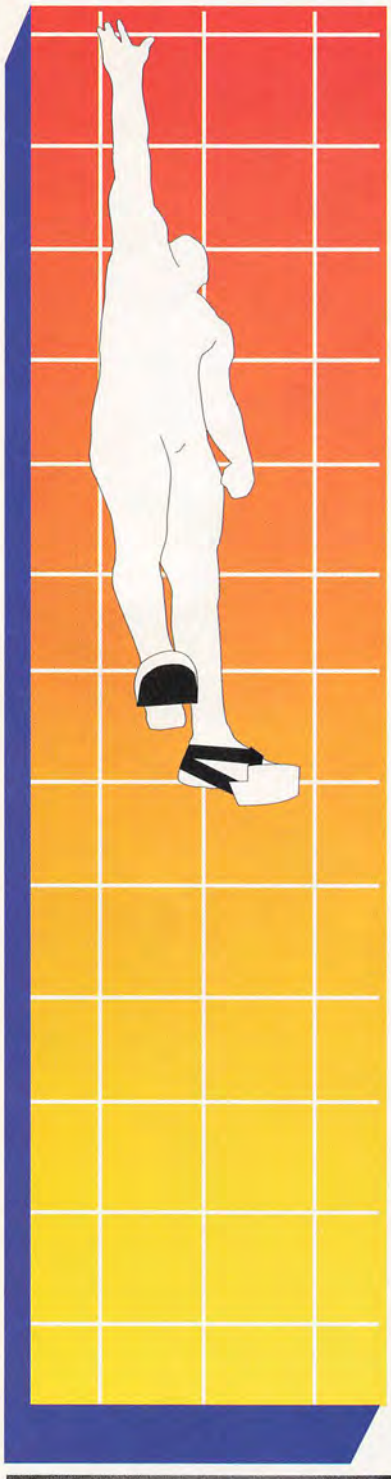

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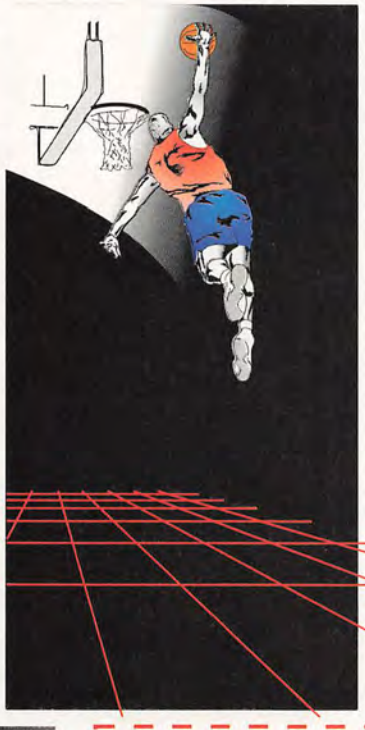

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AFC LEADING PLAYERS

Passing	Att.	Cmp.	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Int.	Rtng.
Marino, Mia.	615	385	62.6	4453	30	17	89.2
Elway, Den.	494	307	62.1	3490	16	10	85.7
Kelly, Buff.	448	285	63.6	3114	22	17	84.6
Montana, K.C.	493	299	60.6	3283	16	9	83.6
Humphries, S.D.	453	264	58.3	3209	17	12	81.6
Hostetler, Raiders	454	263	57.9	3334	20	16	81.0
O'Donnell, Pitt.	370	212	57.3	2443	13	9	78.9
Esiason, Jets	440	255	58.0	2782	17	13	77.3
Blake, Cin.	306	156	51.0	2154	14	9	76.9
Bledsoe, N.E.	691	400	57.9	4555	25	27	73.6

Rushing	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Warren, Sea.	333	1545	4.6	9
Means, S.D.	343	1350	3.9	12
Faulk, Ind.	314	1282	4.1	11
Thomas, Buff.	287	1093	3.8	7
Williams, Raiders	282	983	3.5	4
Johnson, Jets	240	931	3.9	3
Hoard, Clev.	209	890	4.3	5
Parmalee, Mia.	216	868	4.0	6
Foster, Pitt.	216	851	3.9	5
Morris, Pitt.	198	836	4.2	7

Kicking	XP	FG	Lg	Pts
Carney, S.D.	33–33	34–38	50	135
Elam, Den.	29–29	30–37	54	119
Bahr, N.E.	36–36	27–34	48	117
Christie, Buff.	38–38	24–28	52	110
Stover, Clev.	32–32	26–28	45	110
Pelfrey, Cin.	24–25	28–33	54	108
Stoyanovich, Mia.	35–35	24–31	50	107
Elliott, K.C.	30–30	25–30	49	105
Anderson, Pitt.	32–32	24–29	50	104
Jaeger, Raiders	31–31	22–28	51	97

Pass Receiving	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Coates, N.E.	96	1174	12.2	62t	7
Reed, Buff.	90	1303	14.5	83t	8
Brown, Raiders	89	1309	14.7	77t	9
Sharpe, Den.	87	1010	11.6	44	4
Blades, Sea.	81	1086	13.4	45	4
Moore, Jets	78	1010	12.9	41t	6
Milburn, Den.	77	549	7.1	33	3
Timpson, N.E.	74	941	12.7	37	3
Fryar, Mia.	73	1270	17.4	54t	7
Pickens, Cin.	71	1127	15.9	70t	11

Interceptions	Int.	Yds.	Long.	TD
Turner, Clev.	9	199	93t	1
Buchanan, Ind.	8	221	90t	3
Perry, Pitt.	7	112	42	0
McDaniel, Raiders	7	103	35	2
Hurst, N.E.	7	68	24	0
Turner, Jets	5	155	90t	1
Vincent, Mia.	5	113	58t	1
Hasty, Jets	5	90	40	0
Lewis, Hou.	5	57	20	0
Six are tied with 4.				

Sacks	No.
Greene, Pitt	14.0
O'Neal, S.D.	12.5
Smith, K.C.	11.5
Mims, S.D.	11.0
Thomas, K.C.	11.0
Burnett, Clev.	10.0
Lloyd, Pitt.	10.0
Smith, Buff.	10.0
Four are tied with 9.5.	

NFC LEADING PLAYERS

Passing	Att.	Cmp.	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Int.	Rtng.
Young, S.F.	461	324	70.3	3969	35	10	112.8
Favre, G.B.	582	363	62.4	3882	33	14	90.7
Everett, N.O.	540	346	64.1	3855	22	18	84.9
Aikman, Dall.	361	233	64.5	2676	13	12	84.9
George, Atl.	524	322	61.5	3734	23	18	83.3
Erickson, T.B.	399	225	56.4	2919	16	10	82.5
Moon, Minn.	601	371	61.7	4264	18	19	79.9
Walsh, Chi.	343	208	60.6	2078	10	8	77.9
Cunningham, Phil.	490	265	54.1	3229	16	13	74.4
Miller, Rams	317	173	54.6	2104	16	14	73.6

Rushing	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Sanders, Det.	331	1883	5.7	7
Smith, Dall.	368	1484	4.0	21
Hampton, Giants	327	1075	3.3	6
Allen, Minn.	255	1031	4.0	8
Bettis, Rams	319	1025	3.2	3
Rhett, T.B.	284	1011	3.6	7
Tillman, Chi.	275	899	3.3	7
Watters, S.F.	239	877	3.7	6
Moore, Ariz.	232	780	3.4	4
Heyward, Atl.	183	779	4.3	7

Kicking	XP	FG	Lg	Pts
Reveiz, Minn.	30–30	34–39	51	132
Andersen, N.O.	32–32	28–39	48	116
Boniol, Dall.	48–48	22–29	47	114
Brien, S.F.	60–62	15–20	48	105
Jacke, G.B.	41–43	19–26	50	98
Murray, Phil.	33–33	21–25	42	96
Johnson, Atl.	32–32	21–25	50	95
Hanson, Det.	39–40	18–27	49	93
Lohmiller, Wash.	30–32	20–28	54	90
Husted, T.B.	20–20	23–35	53	89

Pass Receiving	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Carter, Minn.	122	1256	10.3	65t	7
Rice, S.F.	112	1499	13.4	69t	13
Mathis, Atl.	111	1342	12.1	81	11
Sharpe, G.B.	94	1119	11.9	49	18
Reed, Minn.	85	1175	13.8	59	4
Early, N.O.	82	894	10.9	33	4
Rison, Atl.	81	1088	13.4	69t	8
Irvin, Dall.	79	1241	15.7	65t	6
Barnett, Phil.	78	1127	14.4	54	5
Bennett, G.B.	78	546	7.0	40	4

Interceptions	Int.	Yds.	Long.	TD
Williams, Ariz.	9	89	43	0
Hanks, S.F.	7	93	38	0
Sanders, S.F.	6	303	93t	3
Jackson, Phil.	6	86	55t	1
Clark, Atl.-N.O.	5	149	74	0
Woodson, Dall.	5	140	94t	1
Washington, Dall.	5	43	25	0
Buckley, G.B.	5	38	26	0
Woolford, Chi.	5	30	25	0
Spencer, N.O.	5	24	11	0
Johnson, Atl.	5	0	0	0

Sacks	No.
Harvey, Wash.	13.5
Randle, Minn.	13.5
Haley, Dall.	12.5
Smith, Atl.	11.0
Conner, N.O.	10.5
Fuller, Phil.	10.5
Jones, G.B.	10.5
Martin, N.O.	10.0
Harmon, Phil.	9.0
Stubblefield, S.F.	8.5

1994 NFL STATISTICS

1994 FINAL REGULAR-SEASON STANDINGS

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

Eastern Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Miami	10	6	0	.625	389	327
New England*	10	6	0	.625	351	312
Indianapolis	8	8	0	.500	307	320
Buffalo	7	9	0	.438	340	356
New York Jets	6	10	0	.375	264	320

Central Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Pittsburgh	12	4	0	.750	316	234
Cleveland*	11	5	0	.688	340	204
Cincinnati	3	13	0	.188	276	406
Houston	2	14	0	.125	226	352

Western Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
San Diego	11	5	0	.688	381	306
Kansas City*	9	7	0	.563	319	298
L.A. Raiders	9	7	0	.563	303	327
Denver	7	9	0	.438	347	396
Seattle	6	10	0	.375	287	323

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

Eastern Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Dallas	12	4	0	.750	414	248
N.Y. Giants	9	7	0	.563	279	305
Arizona	8	8	0	.500	235	267
Philadelphia	7	9	0	.438	308	308
Washington	3	13	0	.188	320	412

Central Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	PA	PA
Minnesota	10	6	0	.625	356	314
Green Bay*	9	7	0	.563	382	287
Detroit*	9	7	0	.563	357	342
Chicago*	9	7	0	.563	271	307
Tampa Bay	6	10	0	.375	251	351

Western Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
San Francisco	13	3	0	.813	505	296
New Orleans	7	9	0	.438	348	407
Atlanta	7	9	0	.438	313	389
L.A. Rams	4	12	0	.250	286	365

*Wild Card qualifier for playoffs.

Miami finished ahead of New England based on a head-to-head sweep (2–0).

Kansas City qualified for Wild Card slot over L.A. Raiders based on a head-to-head sweep (2–0).

1994 NFL POSTSEASON AT A GLANCE

AFC Wild Card Playoff Games
MIAMI 27, Kansas City 17
CLEVELAND 20, New England 13

AFC Divisional Playoff Games
PITTSBURGH 29, Cleveland 9
SAN DIEGO 22, Miami 21

AFC Championship Game
San Diego 17, PITTSBURGH 13

NFC Wild Card Playoff Games
GREEN BAY 16, Detroit 12
Chicago 35, MINNESOTA 18

NFC Divisional Playoff Games
SAN FRANCISCO 44, Chicago 15
DALLAS 35, Green Bay 9

NFC Championship Game
SAN FRANCISCO 38, Dallas 28

Super Bowl XXIX at Joe Robbie Stadium, Miami, Fla.
San Francisco (NFC) 49, San Diego (AFC) 26

AFC-NFC Pro Bowl at Aloha Stadium, Honolulu, Hawaii
AFC 41, NFC 13

AFC RANKINGS BY YARDS

	OFFENSE			DEFENSE		
	Total	Rush	Pass	Total	Rush	Pass
Buffalo	5	5	5	8	4	11
Cincinnati	9	11	8	7	12	4
Cleveland	8	9	9	2	7	3
Denver	4	13	3	14	9	14
Houston	13	7	12	3	14	1
Indianapolis	14	3	14	11	6	12
Kansas City	3	6	4	5	8	5
L.A. Raiders	10	12	7	4	5	7
Miami	1	8	2	10	2	13
New England	2	14	1	9	10	8
N.Y. Jets	11	10	10	12	11	9
Pittsburgh	7	1	11	1	3	2
San Diego	6	4	6	6	1	10
Seattle	12	2	13	13	13	6

NFC RANKINGS BY YARDS

	OFFENSE			DEFENSE		
	Total	Rush	Pass	Total	Rush	Pass
Arizona	13	7	12	2	4	2
Atlanta	3	14	3	14	7	14
Chicago	12	6	11	8	12	3
Dallas	4	2	7	1	5	1
Detroit	8	1	13	11	11	10
Green Bay	5	8	5	5	3	8
L.A. Rams	11	12	9	9	10	7
Minnesota	2	9	1	4	1	12
New Orleans	6	13	4	12	9	13
N.Y. Giants	14	5	14	7	8	5
Philadelphia	7	4	8	3	6	4
San Francisco	1	3	2	6	2	9
Tampa Bay	10	10	10	10	13	6
Washington	9	11	6	13	14	11

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Mt. Laurel, NJ

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'83 GMC Truck
Wayne CARSTAR Collision
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